BRITISH MUSEUM

JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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SPLENDID! THANKS!!

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London and Paris Exchange, Ltd.,
Basildon House,
Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Please send me gratis and post free your book, entitled "Modern Banking and Investment"

Name ----------

Address ----------

[John Bull Coupon.] ----------

JOHN BULL.

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Vol. VI. No. 139. Saturday, January 30th, 1909. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Who is the *Labour* M.P. about to be cited for contempt in connection with our case? What a lot of trouble we are causing!

Why *did* Commissioner Nicol "resign" from the Salvation Army?

Here is a remarkable communication which reaches us from a reader at New Cross:—

> It may interest you to know that at the New Cross Wesleyan Church, on Sunday evening last, the Rev. Arthur E. Boyce, in preaching on the subject of "Dreams and Disenchantments," referred to Mr. Horatio Bottomley as one of the most interesting personalities since Napoleon. He, the preacher, said that he had been present at the Guildhall proceedings and found Mr. Bottomley a most fascinating psychological study. In his, the preacher's judgment Mr. B. possesses much of the emotional temperament and astute mental activity of the late Dr. Parker. Had Mr. Bottomley submitted to spiritual influences as a young man, he doubtless would have been one of the most powerful religious forces of the present day.

If only it were true!

The indefatigable Mr. Stead is seeking the views of M.P.'s and others upon the proposal that the State should take over the liquor traffic, as a Government monopoly. We respectfully suggest to the State that it should mind its own business—which is to attend to the business of the nation. Let it, by all means, take over the railways, canals, tramways, waterworks, and other necessary monopolies incidental to the public service—but do leave us to make our own beer. Personally, we shouldn't at all fancy our drink if we knew that our right hon. friend Sir Thomas Whittaker, or Lief Jones, or Charles Roberts, had been concerned in its manufacture.

Despite our recent reproach, the London Brighton and South Coast Railway has not yet provided lights for the long Guildford tunnel.

So Smyth-Pigott has been found "Guilty." Well better late than never. But what is the next step? We have already pointed out that there is no power to force him to submit to the decrees of an Ecclesiastical court. The matter is a little out of our line, but we shall have to consider the propriety of introducing a short measure, under the "ten minutes' rule," to excommunicate the dirty dog.

But we do not quite follow the reasoning of the learned counsel who appeared at the Consistory Court. He said that "the Bishop desired that some steps should be taken to cleanse this cesspool, as he was afraid the Agapemone was, of blasphemy and immorality in his diocese. . . . It would be lamentable if the beautiful little hamlet of Spaxton should continue to be a wilderness of particularly repulsive vice." How will the unfrocking of Pigott cleanse the cesspool or make the village cease to be a "wilderness of particularly repulsive vice"? And how can a cesspool be a wilderness? And what is the connection between a wilderness and vice?

The Rev. R. J. Campbell is not a hero. Having cast a serious aspersion upon the morality of drapers' female assistants, and being challenged by the Trade Council to justify his charges, he says, "You are quite well aware of the reason why I do not name any particular offender." Does this mean that his doing so would involve him in an action for slander? And is he afraid to face such a test of his truth? Oh, these Late Christians! What would the Early Fathers have said?

At the time of going to press (Monday) we don't know what is to happen in regard to Mr. Herbert Nield's alleged Contempt of Court in his speech about our case. But what we can't understand is why, if the Government think a speech of this kind is calculated to interfere with the course of justice, they should take steps to publish it to the whole world. Until last week, not one person in a thousand had read it; now, not one in a thousand hasn't. But, after all, it is not for us to complain.

The Sunday trading question is still acute at Cleethorpes, where a Canon of the Church sits on the bench and assists in the convictions. "A mother of twelve," trading in the town, thinks that preaching sermons for a salary is Sunday trading, but we have to point out that the "merrie monarch, scandalous and poor," did not include it within the meaning of his Act. Trams also run in Cleethorpes on Sundays. The sale and purchase of tram tickets is certainly Sunday trading, but in the reign of Charles trams were but the baseless fabric of a vision. The population of the town is 22,000, and but for the traders who keep open in spite of fines and heavy costs, neither man, woman, nor child, excursionist or native, would be able to buy anything except physic and liquor. It seems about time for the tomb of King Charles to be opened, and the Act buried in it.

We have received some further particulars about the Mr. Henry Boyce who called us a "scoundel" (*sic*). It appears that he lives in a house with the absurd name of Resurgam, in Horn Lane, Woodford, and that he is constantly in trouble with his gas company. On one occasion when he was in arrears with the bill, the company disconnected his pipe, whereupon he reconnected it without giving notice to the company. In March, 1908, he wrote to the company in the following characteristic way: "I have instructed my dog—an Irish terrier—promptly to sample the legs of any officials who may enter my house for the purpose of making any examination of my meter." For this escapade he had the pleasure of paying a fine of 10s. and 4s. costs. We are informed that he is a very small and insignificant man, which explains his having to rely upon his dog to defend him against the importunity of creditors. As we have no intention of taking part in a man and dog fight we take this opportunity to point out to Mr. Boyce that the luxury of sending libellous postcards may cost him considerably more than 14s.

We suppose that the following extract from the *Cleckheaton Guardian* is intended to be funny:

> It is estimated that in his time Santa Claus has descended 7354192123478905619200657824536789324657897834651927834579812347834123170001237 34 chimneys.

As a matter of fact there are not nearly so many chimneys in existence in the whole world. Indeed, we are open to wager that there are not even a trillion articles of any kind in existence, not even a trillion hairs. This statement will probably provoke some controversy, but if we take the average hairs on a human head as 80,000 and multiply it by the population of the world, we shall be astonished to find what a small number of billions are attained. Even if we throw in the hairs of all the animal creation we shall not attain to a million of millions of millions.

The Unionists are playing into the hands of their opponents by clamouring for conscription, which the country will never stand. Indiscretion of this sort must spoil the most promising campaign, and we are rapidly coming to the conclusion that it will soon be necessary to form our new party—the party of common sense.

A lady named Jane Bladen writes to us from Hull, "You are the type of man who would kick a dog because you didn't like its owner. Lord Alfred Douglas may not have the manners of a gentleman, but he has at least those of a journalist." This will scarcely be relished by the journalistic profession, but is interesting as showing that his lordship has at least one lady admirer. But who is the dog's owner?

As to Lord Alfred's journalistic gentility, we will only say that his methods of controversy are peculiar. Mr. Vivian, having reviewed what he considers to be the unnecessarily collected writings of O. Wilde, Lord Alfred attacks him for saying that he "received" them. "We venture to doubt if Mr. Vivian has done anything of the kind. We happen to know that the publishers of Oscar Wilde's collected works sent them for review to not more than six journals, and we question whether JOHN BULL was included in the number. Of course, Mr. Vivian may have 'received' the collected works in the sense that he has bought and paid for them, or that he has borrowed them from a friend, but when a reviewer talks about 'receiving' books he implies that they have been sent to him or to his editor for review." Well, they were; and we venture to suggest to the noble lord that it would have been more in accordance with journalistic fairplay that he should have taken the trouble to consult the publisher before making accusations intended to suggest bad faith. It would have also been more decent if he had refrained from constituting himself the champion of the late Mr. O. Wilde.

Probably much to the regret and disappointment of Lady Violet Elliot, daughter of the Viceroy of India, she had to return the beautiful and costly presents which were given to her by the chiefs of India on the occasion of her marriage with Lord Charles Fitzmaurice. There is a stringent rule, it appears, that officials employed in India are not to accept presents of any kind from natives. Enforcing rigid example, Lord Minto thinks it also applies, or ought to apply, to an official's daughters. No doubt the Viceroy is correct in this attitude, though we seem to recall that when one of the Maharajahs of India—he of Benares, unless memory is at fault—presented that magnificent potentate Lord Curzon with a splendid suite of ivory furniture he did not accept the gift either. His lordship did a swop. He exchanged with the Maharajah for a gun.

For many reasons it would be a pity if the Crystal Palace were to fall into the hands of the speculating builder, as it is in danger of doing. The grounds are among the finest of London's air spaces, and if the Palace itself has of late years suffered from its inability to compete with other places of entertainment, its distance from town, and the inadequacy of the railway service which feeds its turnstiles, that is not to say its day as a public pleasure resort is over. The present company certainly is not in a position to mend matters; the best its directors can do is to drift on the tide of chance. All this leads us to notice that, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor of London, the Mayors of Battersea, Bermondsey, Camberwell, Deptford, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Wandsworth and Woolwich have met in conference and passed a resolution that the Crystal Palace should be secured in perpetuity for the nation. This much may be said. Although owned by a limited company, the Palace is as much a national institution in the public imagination as Hampton Court or Kew Gardens. But what is the price at which the directors are willing to sell? And what says Mr. Lloyd-George? Shall we whisper an idea into his ear? Let the Government lay out and subsidise a racecourse, for both flat-racing and steeplechasing. We'll promise to run John Bull and Adansi—just to give the meeting a good send-off.

Mr. D'Eyncourt, the magistrate of the North London police-court, seems to have made it rather too hot for John Shannon, a workhouse inmate charged before him with refractory conduct. In the same dormitory with Shannon slept a man named Higgins; also another man who snored hard. Higgins told the snorer that he would throw him out. "I says to him, I says," Shannon told the magistrate, "you leave him alone. He can't help snoring. It's the will of God." Higgins threatened to "pay him," and in fact started to pay him as the two were on their way to chapel. "Then," said Shannon, "I upped with this little Englishman and that little Irishman," pointing to his fists, "and put him through it. I thank God He gave me the strength to pop them in the right place." Having rather a sneaking affection for the muscular piety of Mr. Shannon, the sentence of fourteen days which Mr. D'Eyncourt passed upon him seems to us wholly excessive. Shannon did not provoke the encounter. He was attacked because he defended the afflicted, a man who slept audibly by the will of God. It was a case in which Mr. D'Eyncourt might have shown mercy, even as he hopes to receive mercy if and when he drives his own pigs to market.

The unemployed question still appears to be occupying the earnest attention of the authorities. Camberwell

Distress Committee, for instance, is hard at work sending out postcards. Three months ago a man in the district applied for work on the strength of a notice in the public library. He saw the officer in charge of the bureau, after two hours' waiting, and was then cross-examined about everything except the whereabouts of his birth-mark. He has now received a postcard from the Distress Committee informing him that "in the event of a fall of snow, on presentation of this card at the Borough Council depot at 7 o'clock in the morning, work may be found for you." This man, who for anything the Distress Committee has done for him, might have been starving for the last three months, is now practically invited to pray for snow, though he may have to pray until next Christmas. If all the Committee can do for the unemployed is to send out postcards at the end of January requiring them to wait for a job till it snows, it had better save its stationery and stamps.

Our Noachian friend Judge Willis has been telling his county court audience that he has never used a telephone, did not know anything about it, did not see the use of it, and thought people could get on very well without it, as they did a hundred years ago. We have to remind his Honour that there was a day when people wore fig-leaves and thought themselves in the height of fashion. But in the best circles fig-leaves as clothing have been supplanted by the Parisian modes; and if Judge Willis were to-day caught in the public streets wearing an Eden costume, we can assure him any plea that what was good enough for Adam was good enough for him would avail him nothing. The very worst which can be urged against the telephone is that its widespread use has been coincident with a great increase in national profanity.

Evidently the new Act for the admission of the press as of right to the meetings of public authorities will not be of much advantage unless it is amended. By the simple process of passing a resolution that the admission of reporters is inadvisable in the public interest, the Lyme Regis Borough Council have been able to exclude them and make a farce of the whole thing. What has happened at Lyme Regis will probably happen elsewhere, and public money will be spent and hole-and-corner arrangements carried out without any of the checks on extravagance or jiggery-pokery which the presence of reporters tends to interpose.

Liberals will do well to follow as closely as the secretive practice of our Foreign Office permits, Sir Edward Grey's action in relation to Persia. The people of that unfortunate country have for some time past been in open revolt against the tyranny of the Shah. The struggle promises to end in the complete defeat of the tyrant if he is left to fight it out with his revolted subjects. But their victory would be extremely distasteful to Russia; and just as the revolution in Turkey promises to restore some of the lost strength and prosperity of that country, so like cause in Persia might have like effect. To prevent this, and to prop up the rule of the Shah, the Russian Government proposes to make him a loan, and to provide him with administrators to undertake "in the capacity of advisers" regeneration of the Persian nation. In other words, the Russian Government proposes to do with or without the help of England, what England and France set out to do in Egypt a quarter of a century ago.

What is Sir Edward Grey saying to that? The Anglo-Russian Convention bars the intervention of England and Russia, or either of them, or any other Power, in the affairs of Persia. Its ostensible object is to maintain the territorial integrity of that country. Russia now proposes to tear up the Convention. Does Sir Edward Grey agree? Is the Russian proposal likely to secure at some time in the future a strong and independent Persia? No one acquainted with the position, and expressing his honest belief, would say that. If Sir Edward Grey consents to the tearing up of the Convention, only signed, with such a flourish of trumpets, a few months ago; if he consents to join Russia in supporting the Shah; or permits Russia to act while he stands aside, he will disgrace England. The present goodwill of the Persian Nationalists towards England will be turned to hatred, and sooner or later there will be dangerous friction between England and Russia over Persia, just as there was between England and France over Egypt. We find it difficult to believe that Sir Edward Grey will be content to play cat's-paw to Russia, but the omens are not reassuring.

Most people spend too large a part of their income on rent. "When I was a young man," Judge Bacon said the other day, "we were always told to spend a tenth of our income on rent." In these days that proportion, for the majority of people, would make living anywhere except in a stable or a pigstye impossible. During a period of thirty years rents have enormously increased. What sort of living accommodation could anybody earning thirty shillings a week obtain in London for his wife and family for three shillings? Up to a certain point of income a man has practically no choice but to spend a highly disproportionate amount on house rent, while above the £200 a year limit it is undeniable that the amount spent on such rent often assumes the dimensions of gross and wilful extravagance. We get into debt, many of us, that landlords may prosper.

According to the *Eastbourne Chronicle*, "William Thomas Lewis, 50 years old, a surveyor, and evidently a man of education," has been "sentenced to twelve months imprisonment as an incorrigible rogue, his crime being that he slept in the open air. Lewis said he slept out from necessity and not from choice." If the facts are as stated, the sentence is another example of judicial savagery under the law. People often talk of things being as free as the air, but evidently air is about the dearest thing going Eastbourne way. Having a high regard for the greatest comfort of the greatest number, which many competent mathematicians regard as number 1, we should not sleep out ourselves while there was a workhouse which offered us good welcome. But because a man would rather take the air than the roof he is not necessarily an incorrigible rogue and a vagabond. If every man who slept out in London were sentenced to a year in gaol the taxpayers would have some big additions to their expenses. We still await a reply from the Home Secretary to that question we once addressed to him—given that a man is occupying a public seat in the middle of the night, what difference does it make to anybody whether he be awake or asleep? And let it be remembered that by the County Council Bye-laws, the army of human wrecks after waiting on the Embankment for their orders for soup and bread from the Salvation and Church Army shelters, are compelled to be turned out of them by 3 a.m.—the coldest part of the night. The justification for this cruel rule is that the shelters are not "registered lodging-houses"! The law, therefore, is not only an ass, but also a brute.

When are we to have taxi-cabs at the great railway stations?

"A contributor to the Church House Fund," which provided the means of building the mission hall of which the vicar of Acocks Green refused the free use for a poor children's dinner organised by a local musical society, thinks we have done an injustice to the rev. gentleman. His defence of Mr. Dodd, to cut the cackle and get to the hosses, is that the church house is still

saddled with a debt, that the dinner and distribution of clothing to the children was unnecessary, that "a Christian minister must teach his flock to exercise due thought and consideration in giving," and that "assistance should be offered readily and generously where it is required, but again, it should be absolutely and even sternly refused where the need of it is firmly absent." This defence of the vicar does not strike us as doing him much service, especially as he informed a reporter that he "did not want a lot of kids knocking about his new room." Also, we like a man, parson or not, to speak for himself. The Rev. Mr. Dodd, probably thinking that least said is soonest mended, holds his peace. It is about the hardest thing in the world for anybody to be a Christian. But we are not much in love with ordained professors of Christianity who fail because they would rather not try.

Miss Violet Charlesworth now knows that in these days of penny and ha'penny newspapers it is not as easy to disappear from the earth as it may seem at first sight, not at least until you are really dead. In this case, the lady was by no means dead enough for the story—the atmosphere of painful inaccuracies in which she and those who assisted in the tragedy which didn't happen did not serve to obscure her movements. Apparently her little game—a poor little game for so clever a lady—was to die as Miss Violet Gordon and live anew as Miss Margaret Cameron MacLeod. Unfortunately, having thus risen, everybody recognised her—except her sister and the ubiquitous Mr. Grattan, the friend of the family. From the versatility of her narrative, as displayed in the various accounts she has given of herself, it may be that she has missed her forte. She would have made a potful of money by short stories. But perhaps she has. Anyway, she has accepted a music-hall engagement at £300 a week—just twice the sum we offered her last week.

WORRIED LOOKS—XII.

THE LONDON CARMAN AND HIS WAGES.

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT SCHEME.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

At the end of the present month, the scheme will be entirely reorganised. Numbers will be drawn weekly in respect of the previous week's issue, and, instead of having to undertake canvassing, the holders of the drawn numbers will be asked to assist us in another, and novel, manner—involving no encroachment upon their spare time or present occupation.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For advertising that he "would receive at home officer OR *gentleman desirous of learning French,"*
MR. GOUARNE, OF ST. SERVAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For giving a trawler accident and a Kensitite protest under the heading "Wit and Humour,"
THE HUDDERSFIELD EXAMINER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For advertising a "*REAL *waterfall, specially painted for this production,"*
THE SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Pentine" is "turpentine's EQUAL," *and adding, "What* EQUALS *Pentine? Nothing!"*
MAJOR AND CO., OF HULL,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that Lord Charles Beresford's famous bull-*DOG *had a litter of pups,*
THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising that he is "Optician to the Jamaica Militia Rifle CORPSE,"
DR. PERCY G. LOPEZ, OF KING STREET,
KINGSTON, JAMAICA,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following report: "Glasgow West-End Murder.—Fresh Development.—There is no fresh development to report to-day in connection with the Glasgow West-end tragedy,"
THE GREENOCK TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in the report of a football match that "some 8,000 people were present at the start," and then going on to remark, "Hull were in danger soon after the resumption, when the crowd had grown to nearly 7,000,"
THE HULL DAILY NEWS & EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that on January 9th, "In Hastings yesterday EVENING . . . *About eight o'clock there was a slight fall of sn w, lasting for some fifteen minutes. . . . But soon the atmosphere cleared and the sun shone brightly,"*
THE HASTINGS ARGUS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing under the heading "Sport and Play," that the Royal Family attended Divine Service,
THE SPORTSMAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that "there was a tomb-*STONE *constructed of rough pieces of* WOOD,"
A WRITER IN *THE SUNDAY COMPANION*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following paragraph in a story: "And so, in complete silence and utter loneliness, Will and his mate tossed in their little boat on the smooth heaving wat:r. So lonely it was that THE NEAREST RIDGE OF SWAYING WATER WAS ALL THEY COULD SEE OF EARTH,"
THE EDITOR OF *IDEAS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that W. T. Young "has a birth qualification for SOMERSETSHIRE, *having been born at Chippenham in* WILTSHIRE,"
THE SOUTH WALES ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating on January 3rd that "Mr. Keir Hardie, who is NOW *in Scotland,* DEPARTED ON SATURDAY *for four weeks' stay in the United States,"*
THE WEEKLY TIMES & ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

AN ANGRY PARSON.

THE PASTOR OF MAZE POND CHAPEL GIVES US A FINE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY.

Last week we commented, in our editorial notes, upon the condition of affairs at Maze Pond Chapel, Old Kent Road, consequent upon the pastor, the Rev. F. C. Spurr, having received a "call" to a Melbourne chapel. Basing our remarks upon a newspaper report and a letter, we took Mr. Spurr to task in our own plain way. Apparently the report was not quite accurate; at any rate, Mr. Spurr assures us so, and not being very good Christians, we gladly accept his disclaimer. It appears that the newspaper from which we quoted "used its own words to describe what it took Mr. Spurr ten minutes to unfold," whilst the salary at the Melbourne chapel is nearer £14 a week than £40 (what it is at Maze Pond Mr. Spurr does not tell us). So far, so good; and if we have done the rev. gentleman an injustice we apologise.

But Mr. Spurr's letter demands a more extended notice—although even under the threat that if we do not print it in full in this issue, or if we "alter it in any way," it will be "sent to the chief newspapers," we regret that we have no space for more than its principal gems—of both literary style and brotherly love. For instance, as regards the salary at Melbourne, we are assured that "in the palmiest days of the Church, when merchant princes attended it (*honest men who were never in the Courts charged with fraud and robbery*), the stipend was about £20 per week at the utmost." Not being professional theologians, we confess that we do not understand why "fraud" and "robbery" should be spoken of as two distinct sins, but we are bound to admit that Brother Spurr has got one well home upon us. He has touched us on the raw, and our withers are quite wrung. But we cannot quite reconcile this specific statement with a sentence which almost follows it: "I may tell you that no word has passed between the Melbourne Church and myself about money." There is evidently a bit of Zanciggery here. It would be very rude, and, we believe, very un-Christian to describe this statement as "a deliberate lie," but that is the phrase our brother uses towards us, although he adds, with a touch of charity which appeals to us, "I should think, however, that a lie like that is of very small importance to you." And then, to our great relief, comes the assurance, which we accept without question from an expert authority on ethics, "Falsehoods, sir, hurt only those who utter them." So, thank goodness, Mr. Spurr is not hurt.

In our comments we referred to Mr. Spurr's smug reflection that "perhaps his work in the Old Kent Road was finished," and we said that if that were his view as he surveyed the scenes of squalor and crime and misery with which that district abounds, the sooner he was off to Melbourne the better. And here we must give Mr. Spurr's rejoinder in extenso:—

> Your sneer about the poverty, crime, and squalor and my relation to it is quite worthy of a man like yourself, who has never in all probability lifted a little finger to arrest this misery. We do try to the best of our ability to deal with the poor and miserable and pagan population around us, but we are handicapped for want of suitable premises, workers, and chiefly money. Yet you, who know nothing of all this, sneer. Now I will make you an offer. Since you feel so keenly the "appalling poverty, crime, and squalor of the Old Kent Road," *come and build me a modern school-room, a fully equipped institute, a soup kitchen and a gymnasium, and place at my disposal an annual sum of money sufficient to keep these things going* (I will ask nothing for the pure church work), or get your friends to do this, and I will promise you to remain at Maze Pond all my life. What can one man do single-handed in a neighbourhood like this? If instead of sneering, you would come and acquaint yourself with what we are trying to do, even *you* might understand that when a man finds his workers going ever further out to live, that poverty is ever draining his slender resources, that his premises are inadequate to meet new conditions, and that while his church is filled with people who come from a distance, he finds himself unable to touch the pagans around him as he ardently desires to do. I say even *you* might understand that a man may well ask whether his particular work is not done, and whether some other man might not do better work. That, however, is for *us* and not for *you* to decide. I tell you the facts; *now are you prepared to shell out?* You have money, I have none. If after your expression of pity for our poor, you do not help those of us who are working in the midst of them, then you will be written down a sanctimonious hypocrite.

We will not discuss the question of how often we may have lifted a finger, or given even a hand, to help our fellow man. These are things which only professional almoners talk about. But, in view of Mr. Spurr's pitiful admission that he is not man enough for his job (converting the "pagans" around him should not need much money if he knows his work), and that, perhaps, a new man could do the work better, we repeat our advice that he should go to Melbourne. As regards "shelling out," we are having to do that pretty freely just now in another direction, and it is quite impossible for us to entertain the idea of setting the reverend gentleman up in business again.

Mr. Spurr thinks we are "far too much of a coward" to publish his letter, and tells us that "men who hide behind an editorial desk, and from there fling poisoned weapons, are excellent savages, but they are not Englishmen." Well, it is good to be excellent at something.

One word more. Mr. Spurr says that praise from us "may well set a man asking what he has done," while censure from us "is equivalent to a certificate of merit." Mr. Spurr may rest his head easily on his pillow. He has done nothing—and we accord him a certificate of merit.

And yet another word. Has he decided to accept the "call"—or is he still seeking guidance? In the latter event we will wager that the packing is well forward.

GUIDES TO SUCCESS.

CANADA'S GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM.

TEN NEW COMMANDMENTS.

First.—Thou shalt not wait for something to turn up, but pull off thy coat, go to work that thou mayest prosper in thine affairs and make the word "failure" spell "success."

Second.—Thou shalt not be content to go about thy business looking like a "bum," for thou shouldst know that thy personal appearance is better than a letter of recommendation.

Third.—Thou shalt not try to make excuses, nor shalt thou say to those who chide thee, "I did not think."

Fourth.—Thou shalt not wait to be told what thou shalt do, nor in what manner thou shalt do it, for thus may thy days be long in the job which fortune hath given thee.

Fifth.—Thou shalt not fail to maintain thine own integrity, nor shalt thou be guilty of anything that will lessen thy good respect for thyself.

Sixth.—Thou shalt not covet another fellow's job, nor his salary, nor the position that he has gained by his own hard work.

Seventh.—Thou shalt not fail to live within thine income, nor shalt thou contract any debts when thou canst not see thy way clear to pay them.

Eighth.—Thou shalt not be afraid to blow thine own horn, for he who faileth to blow his own horn on the proper occasion findeth nobody standing by to blow it for him.

Ninth.—Thou shalt not hesitate to say "No" when thou meanest "No," nor shalt thou fail to remember that there are times when it is unsafe to bind thyself by hasty judgment.

Tenth.—Thou shalt give every man a square deal. This is the last and greatest guide, and there is none other like unto it. Upon this guide hangs all the law, and the profits of the business world.

GUILLOTINE!

By James Lucas.

"La Veuve" is alive again, and, like good Queen Bess, she has cut off the heads of four of her suitors for a start.

I shall never forget that bleak Sunday and that bloody Monday at Béthune. Armed with my pass as representative of the Paris journal *L'Avenir*, I arrived at this little and almost forgotten corner of the doleful Departement du Nord. It was a day suitable to the mournful occasion. The streets were wet and slippery, it rained, Scotch mist at times, then in showers. The trains were choke full. Every one of them poured hundreds into the little township, so tranquil, as a rule—a Flemish picture now of a city absorbed by the Kermesse. In spite of its streets with high-sounding names, Béthune is not much of a place. There are a few avenues—save the mark!—a kind of cathedral, a market place with the usual cafés and wine-shops. But the whole aspect is distinctly provincial. Deadly ennui is written on the faces of the city and its citizens. But on Sunday it was all animation; the peasants came in with horses and carts, motors snorted along the streets, the cafés were full inside and out, and at the station there was a crowd waiting for the "woods of justice" and M. Deibler. They waited in vain, for the machine had been forwarded by road and the executioner was comfortably housed at a little commercial hotel where journalists made much of him. The difficulty was how to spend the evening and the weary night, so I called on M. le Sous-Prefêt, M. le Maire, M. le Procureur de la Republique, kind people one and all, and awfully excited. For Béthune has seen no execution since 1849!

As I was talking to the Procureur, Deibler, the executioner, sent word to ask where the guillotine was to be erected. The Rue Lamartine was suggested, but the street is narrow and the name of the poet sacred. Deibler said also that if the scaffold were placed right in front of the prison doors the four men might collapse. The Procureur thereupon decided that the guillotine should be fixed a few yards to the left of the gates so that the men would not see it on emerging from the prison. After this conversation, very minute and ceremonious as is the French way, M. le Procureur said: "I will take you under my wing to-night; you will have supper with me and I will conduct you to the reserved enclosure, where the Government officials and official reporters will occupy coigns of vantage." Good Procureur! how I thank him for the curtailment of that awful night!

We supped very wisely and exceedingly well. M. le Procureur, although his wine was good, became more and more fidgetty, and I myself, although I have faced many perils and fearful sights in my time, became uneasy. After all, it is a dreadful prospect to have to wait for hours in order to see the destruction of four human lives. At about two a.m., when we are partaking of strong coffee, there was a call of the telephone. It was time; we had to go; although the execution would not take place till 7.15 in the morning. Outside the atmosphere was worse than ever, the pavement was a map of little puddles, people perambulated the streets arm in arm, shouting "Ohé Pollet!"(the chief murderer), or indecent music-hall ditties; drink was already rife in the heads of these pleasure-seekers, who looked upon the extreme penalty of the law as "a play." When we arrived in front of the prison there was great bustle and noise. Soldiers had marched up, half a regiment of cavalry kept the intruders in check, the cafés were crammed with townsfolk and peasants mostly singing, shouting and commanding: "Garcon, encore un!" Windows, let for a fiver, were full of people. An orgy, it was worthy of the decadent days of Rome.

* * * * * *

We of the Press and the "officials" were penned in in front of the prison, where we would, no doubt, have a splendid view, but, also, where we would have to wait for four mortal hours on foot and in the rain. I appealed to my Procureur, who said: "If you are as quiet as a mouse—come in." I cannot describe what I felt when he said that. I am a humanitarian, but I am also a student, and now for the first time I should see that most awful of all tragedies—the awakening of the coming dead.

At 6.15 we formed a little procession. In front the priest, the Sous-Prefêt, the Procureur, the Maire, one or two more, then a couple of privileged journalists. We knocked at the condemned cells where the four doomed men slumbered in twos. In the little rooms—for they were cosily furnished—a warder "snoozed" in full uniform by a dim light. The men snored. They knew nothing. They had played cards all Sunday, and were waiting for their despatch—not to the unknown but to "la Nouville—the penal colony where citizenship is the end of bondage.

An official shook the sleepers gently by the shoulder. The men started, rubbing their eyes. "Allons! du courage. The President has signed your death warrant, the hour of expiation has come. Will you have something to comfort you?" "Yes," said Pollet the elder (and the chief culprit, debited with 250 crimes), "a couple of brandies and cigarettes." "Granted," rejoined the Procureur, then two warders came, and led them to the reception room of the prison, where Deibler's henchmen cut their hair short and the collars of their shirts away, and shackled their ankles and wrists. In the other cell the tragedy was more intense. One of the men collapsed in mortal anguish, his mate awoke from his slumbers in frenzy. They soon held him down and dragged the weaker vessel to his legs. They poured brandy down their throats, the priest—for he was always with us—spoke saintly words to them, and then the two fragments of human wreckage vanished into the ante-room to be cropped and manacled.

* * * * * * *

Outside the noise was horrible. The crowd shouted and sang. Ribald jokes flitted from café to café. There was an ugly crush, the cavalry charged again and again. Still it rained, and besides the poor street lanterns the glimmer of the fatal knife was the one thing that illuminated the dismal darkness. Deibler, the executioner, faultless in evening dress and opera hat, appeared, and once or twice tried the "couperet." Click! it fell. Click!! it fell again. Then he nodded to an official that he was satisfied. The cathedral chimed 7.15, and scarcely had the sound vanished, when the prison doors gave a grinding sound and opened wide, like those of a lion's cage. There was a small procession. Two officials in uniform, the priest, Crucifix in hand, then—an object, tottering, faltering, half-dead already, Deroo, the lesser of the criminals, and hence, the first to be despatched. He could not see the guillotine at first—he had to cross two steps or so to the left, then his eye fell on it, and his legs gave way. They pulled him up, the priest whispered words of comfort, they flung him on the bascule, a henchman pulled his ears to adjust him in the "lunette"—then a second's pause—a click—a thud—a fountainette of blood. Done! One, two, three, head and body into the basket filled with sawdust, a sponge over the bloody machine and—number two! He waggled, too, owing to his shackles, but he was rebellious. The crowd yelled—drink-sodden—"A mort!" He responded with oaths. The priest had no chance of comfort. In less time than the pen flies, a soul had gone beyond.

The third, the younger Pollet, was more resigned; he walked with firmness; he listened to the Sacerdotal exhortations, he muttered something. In a minute all told he was severed in twain and wrapped in sawdust. Then came the chief of the Apaches of the Departement du Nord—Abel Pollet. A splendid man if he had but realised it, a face of power, an eye of flame. As he emerged, the populace howled "Ohé Pollet! A mort! Assassin!" and other ugly words. He did not wince. Loudly he spoke to the priest: "Look after her, she is not at fault; let her come out, and care for the kids." The priest advanced. "I don't want you! Long live—long live"—before he could utter the words he was couched on the bascule, and the knife fell again with a dull thud. Justice was done. The crowd vociferated, sang, howled.

The whole terrible thing was over in thirteen minutes—watch in hand. A sort of funeral wagon painted in black, a "fourgon," then appeared with four energetic horses; in went the four baskets with sawdust, heads and trunks, and off to the cemetery. That was a sham. There was no funeral, but a mere formality; presently the cart trotted townwards to the hospital where the hearts and the brains of the convicts were extracted to be "psychologically examined by the medical profession."

* * * * * * *

Dead-tired, dripping with rain, pursued by the cries of an intoxicated mob, yet profuse in my thanks to M. le Procureur, I left the city of horrors. And as in the murkiness of a sad winter morn an express swiftly speeded me to Paris, I prayed that such tragedies should henceforth be enacted far from the madding crowd.

"JOHN BULL" SHAREHOLDERS MEET.

OUR JOURNAL'S REMARKABLE PROGRESS.

The statutory meeting of JOHN BULL, Limited, was held on January 20th at the Holborn Restaurant.

Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., the chairman, presided.

The secretary (Mr. Coles L. Harris) having read the notice convening the meeting,

Mr. BOTTOMLEY, who was very cordially received, said that it was always considered a very satisfactory sign when a meeting in connection with the affairs of any company was not a very crowded one; and from that point of view he was gratified that the hall was not more crowded.

He did not know that there was much to tell them that day about the affairs of the company, because, as they were aware, that was a meeting held in compliance with a section of the Act of Parliament which required it should be convened within a period of three months from the date at which the company commenced its business, and they were also required to give them a certain amount of formal information, which had been read to them, and beyond that there was no specific business to transact.

GREAT INCREASE IN CIRCULATION.

He was pleased to tell them that since the company was formed their journal had made most remarkable further progress; its circulation had enormously increased, large as it was at the time the company took it over, and its advertisement revenue showed a corresponding enlargement, and without going into a lot of details and keeping, he hoped, well within the facts, it was something, he thought, to be able to say, after an existence of a little over two and a-half years, that, taking the average circulation of their paper from the time the company was formed down to that day, if he put it at something substantially over a quarter of a million copies a week he did not think he should exaggerate at all. (Applause.) He did not think there was any other serious or semi-serious weekly publication in the United Kingdom which could show such figures as that. Therefore, they would see that it wielded a very considerable influence. (Hear, hear.) The paper circulated all over the world—he could say that literally—and he thought they had in their journal, JOHN BULL, alone an asset which, even on the basis of its present prosperity, would yield very satisfactory results to everybody interested in the company.

A NUCLEUS.

But he would tell them this—his own idea in starting this company was that they were simply forming the nucleus of what might some day become a very large and comprehensive journalistic organisation. It was a great many years ago now since he was actively engaged in that kind of work, but it was his first love in business, and, on the principle that one always returned to it, he had come back to it with a great deal of pleasure, and, having finally done with everything connected with City life, it was his desire, as soon as his hands were a little more free, to endeavour to build round this central property which they owned something in the nature of a large journalistic publishing organisation, which he hoped might not be unworthy, as years went on, to take its place with some of the institutions which had sprung up in recent years in connection with the newspaper world. (Applause.) It might interest some of them to know that in years gone by the present Lord Northcliffe and he had worked somewhat intimately together, and although he gave his lordship the credit for all the success, all the enterprise, and all the energy which had brought his own undertakings to their present phenomenal position, he thought his lordship would be the first to admit that those ideas grew out of many discussions they had had as very young men when they were working together in a humble way in the journalistic world.

IMPORTANT DEPARTURES.

For the present, they had only one publication to talk about, and they had in connection with it one or two schemes which they thought would further ensure its success. He did not think that was a convenient time to discuss them; he would only say the directors were considering one or two important departures which they thought would increase their sales very considerably and add materially to their already very substantial profits. As regards the profits, the shareholders knew that beyond the dividend on the Preference shares there was nothing in which the general public was at present interested—the 100,000 Ordinary shares went to the original proprietors of the paper and, he should like to say, they did not represent Vendors' shares in the ordinary sense of being entirely profit shares, because he and his friends expended an enormous sum (he should think probably £70,000 or £80,000) in one way and another) in establishing the journal, and in respect of that vast expenditure they received those Ordinary shares, and, of course, beyond paying the dividend on the Preference shares, the surplus profits came entirely to themselves. As far as the Preference shares were concerned, they offered, as the shareholders knew, the entire 50,000 in October last, but, by one of those little fatalities which sometimes overtake the best laid schemes, on the very day the prospectus came out they had the Balkan Crisis—with the result that everything in the City and on the Stock Exchange went upside down, and consequently many applications which were promised and would certainly have come in were held back, and although they received offers of large subscriptions from all sorts of quarters—personal friends of his own and institutions of one kind and another—they decided in the end that, provided they could secure a sum of £25,000 in cash with a view to ultimately paying off the Debentures of the old Company, that that would be all they would trouble about at the moment.

A WIDESPREAD PROPRIETARY.

The result was that they allotted to no less than 800 people, he thought, 15,000 of those shares in very small amounts—believing that to have a vast body of persons interested in the paper all over the country would be a source of additional strength to them—(hear, hear)—and the other 10,000 were allotted to a little financial institution with which he was himself connected, and which took up the shares with the intention of later on placing them amongst their own clients and friends. That little company had so far simply paid the application money upon the shares and taken their allotment, and that was how the capital at present stood, apart from the Vendors' interests. They had £25,000 of Debentures to deal with. They were at present the equitable, as distinguished from the legal owners of the paper—*i.e.*, they had not yet dealt with those debentures. So far as half of them are concerned, they are locked up in consequence of certain legal proceedings which prevented their paying them off at the moment, although provision would have to be made in due course, and, with regard to the others, they were negotiating with a view to paying them off. The £25,000, although, of course, they were using some of it for current purposes, would ultimately be available, and beyond that they were taking no further steps at present to place any capital, because he was satisfied himself, and had the concurrence of their friends the publishers and the business manager, Mr. Elias, that the paper had reached a stage in which it required no further working capital in the ordinary sense of the term. When they had bigger schemes in hand later on, it might, of course, be that various extensions and changes would take place. (Hear, hear.)

THE RIGHT TO ELECT ANOTHER DIRECTOR.

So far as the Preference shareholders were concerned, they had the right—it was mentioned in the prospectus—to appoint another director if they wished to do so. At present the board consisted of Mr. Elias (director and manager of Odhams, who were, perhaps, the largest firm of newspaper printers in London), Mr. Henry Burton (who was known throughout the whole printing and publishing trade as the head of Partington's Advertising Agency and interested in other large concerns), and himself. They were getting on very well together, and—although, of course, they should defer to the wishes of the Preference shareholders whenever they cared to meet, as they must do by the Articles, by themselves, as a class separate from the Ordinary shareholders, and appoint a director—still they were in no particular hurry to make his acquaintance, because things were going on very nicely as they were. (Hear, hear.)

He did not know that there was very much more that he need tell them. The agreement they had with Odhams Limited was referred to in the prospectus. It was a very important working agreement, under which they got the benefit of a vast organisation and under which, as he had explained to them, the paper was continuing to make very phenomenal progress. They had had the usual little batch of libel actions and incidents of that kind, which were inseparable from any paper which endeavoured to take an intelligent interest in public affairs, but so far no harm had been done to them. One only of those actions had hitherto come into Court, and when they got there the plaintiffs announced their intention of not going on, and paid their costs.

THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

The board proposed, if it met the views of the shareholders, that they should treat their financial year as ending at the end of the present year—*i.e.*, bringing into the year the odd few weeks of last year and making up their accounts to the end of every December.

HOW TO HELP.

If there were any questions the shareholders would like to ask, the board were there to answer them, but if there were none, he could only take the opportunity of the statutory meeting for the purpose of assuring them that, so far, all their past expectations were being realised—there was no possible chance of any reconstruction of the company, or of any assessment on their shares, and he thought in one form or another they would always be able to find something in the way of a market for any Preference shareholder who wished to dispose of his holding. His practical and commercial colleague, Mr. Elias, said: "Don't forget to impress upon every shareholder that he can find us an additional reader if he only makes up his mind to do so." We should like shareholders to help in that respect, by pushing the paper and advertising it in every possible way. (Hear, hear.)

He did not know that there was anything for which he need detain them, but he begged any of the shareholders who wished to know anything about the company to take the opportunity of asking the board or to go straight to the secretary, and, unless hearing from their own officials to the contrary, they might rest assured that the business of the company was going on quite satisfactorily.

The Chairman, having thanked the shareholders for their attendance and there being no response to his invitation to shareholders to question the board, said that he took it that everybody was thoroughly satisfied with the position of affairs.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

"LORD METHUEN."

Referring to the sketch of Lord Methuen by "Vedette," which appeared in our issue of January 9th, we have received the following letter:—

> I am moved to write to you by the article contributed in your current issue by your correspondent "Vedette." This is the first time I have troubled you or any other editor with correspondence, but the article criticising General Lord Methuen has aroused in myself a very strong inclination to strenuously refute your contributor's statements. I am aware that a journalist is expected to write in favour of any side of a debatable question with equal ease and fluency, and can readily imagine "Vedette" sitting with tongue in cheek, and dashing off this article on a gallant soldier of whose character he knows as little as he does of soldiering in general. His article does credit to his vivid imagination, and to little else. I would venture to suggest that your information should rather have been gained from the men who had the honour and privilege of serving under Lord Methuen in South Africa during the last Boer War. Ask the men and officers of such well known corps as the "Fighting Fifth," the "Loyal North Lancs," the 4th Battery R.F.A. Ask the men from the sheep ranges of Australia and New Zealand, and last, but not least, ask "Jacky Boer" himself, ask Delarey and his commandos of hunters and explorers from the Western Transvaal, the best shirt-sleeve fighters who ever sighted a Mauser; then, Sir, you will hear a very different opinion of Lord Methuen. Lord Methuen is a hero and gentleman to all who served under him; both private and officer, whether Regular, Yeomanry, or Colonial, had the most perfect trust and confidence in their leader, and that trust was never misplaced. Those men would follow him anywhere, and no doubt will again if occasion calls. Let me remind "Vedette" of Methuen's splendid dash after De Wet. Not discipline or nigger-driving kept his men trekking and "scrapping" for three consecutive days and nights, it was the hope that at last "Paul" should come into his own again by the capture of the Free Stater. And who let De Wet through the gap in the Magaliesburg? Why one of your "picture postcard" generals! Sir, I am thinking if your present issue had been published in Mafeking during 1901 a certain mounted brigade would have called at the editorial headquarters and made a rough house for that distinguished gentleman. However, "The Old Brigade" are scattered all over the earth now, and some will read your article with pain and anger, but none with more disgust than myself.

Our correspondent served under Lord Methuen, and it is pleasing to read the generous defence of that very lucky, and equally unlucky, soldier—lucky in the many opportunities he has had of proving himself a competent commander in the field—unlucky in his failure to do so. Our readers will remember that in many respects "Vedette" was warm in his praise of Lord Methuen.

TRADE NOTES.

Royal personages are amongst those unfortunate mortals who are compelled to live in the full glare of publicity, and the most intimate details of their incomings and outgoings are offered up to popular criticism. Sometimes this serves a very useful purpose, as, for instance, when we are told that a certain Dowager Empress, whilst in London, lays in a stock of Phosferine for her Imperial well-being. The item is fascinating—and valuable, for it assures us of the sterling worth of the excellent preparation. This foresight of the Dowager Empress merits more than passing attention, for enquiry reveals the astonishing fact that the British Royal Family and most of the ruling houses of Europe frequently command supplies of Phosferine for their personal use, an example which was recently followed by the Imperial Family of China. We congratulate the proprietors of this famous standard nerve remedy, for it must be intensely gratifying to possess such a matchless record of the revitalizing properties of Phosferine, which we know, from personal experience, more than deserves the Royal approval it enjoys.

When we announced our Christmas-box scheme Messrs. Huber Bros., of 177-8, Tottenham Court Road, London, approached us, and offered to present free 100 of their "Corona Civica" Fountain Pens. Before accepting their offer we carefully tested the pens, and found them to be of high quality, and equal to those sold by other well-known pen firms. Huber Bros. are the proprietors of the "Corona Civica" Trade Marks, under which they sell a very absorbent, strong and lasting blotting-paper, a large range of typewriting papers, typewriter ribbons, several time-savers, etc. If any of our readers want a really good fountain pen at the right price, they should send a postcard to Huber Bros.

"THIRD-CLASS PASSENGERS FOR NEW ZEALAND."

MESSRS. LUND & SONS' REPLY.

We have received the following letter from Messrs. W. Lund and Sons, of 3, East India Avenue, E.C., well-known shipowners, and having regard to our article under the above title, we think it right to publish it:—

> Referring to the letter inserted in your issue of the 5th December, 1908, headed "Third-Class Passengers for New Zealand," it will no doubt be of interest for you to see the reply sent by the Board of Trade to the person who instigated the letter referred to by you, which reply is as follows:
>
> "Whitehall, December 29th, 1908.
>
> "SIR,—In reply to your letter forwarding a complaint by a number of third-class passengers on the s.s. *Waratah* respecting the accommodation on board, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they have made careful inquiry into this matter, and from the reports which they have received from their officers it is clear that the vessel was at the time of sailing thoroughly well found, and that the accommodation fully complied with all the statutory requirements.
>
> "(Signed) WALTER J. HOWELL.
>
> "F. Finch, Esq., New Zealand."
>
> We do not think we can usefully add anything further than to say that we always make it a rule to do more for the comfort of our passengers than the Board of Trade require.

In acknowledging the letter, we have informed Messrs. Lund and Sons that the statement to which they take exception came from a responsible person, and it is not suggested that the list of passengers who signed the complaint was not a genuine one. But, in face of the letter from the Board of Trade, we can only conclude that these many passengers—as is apt to be the case with passengers on board ship travelling third-class—went a good way beyond the facts in their statement.

We think it also due to Messrs. Lund and Sons to publish a letter we have received from a correspondent who recently took passage in the s.s. *Commonwealth*, and who, before leaving, promised to send us his experience of his treatment on board. Our correspondent writes:—

> In accordance with my letter to you, I beg to report that the feeding arrangements on this ship have far exceeded my expectations.
>
> You will see by the enclosed menus that the bill of fare is a generous one, and the food is served in a well-cooked and clean state, and is of first-rate quality. The purser, Mr. Harding, is acting in every way for the third-class passengers' benefit, and with his department there is no fault to be found in any way. I will report you further at Sydney, and I hope to be able to send you other matter which may be of interest.
>
> Several passengers who have travelled on this line before tell me that they have *always been well served* by Messrs. Lund, and that the food compares more than favourably with the third-class fare on some of the so-called crack lines they have named to me.
>
> I shall send you at the end of the voyage a note of appreciation signed by 200 or more of the passengers, if they keep up to the present standard.

Our correspondent sends us twelve of the bills of fare to which he refers, from which we select one at random. Our readers will judge for themselves as to whether it leaves room for complaint:—

LUND'S BLUE ANCHOR LINE

Menu.

S.S. "Commonwealth."

DINNER, DECEMBER 28th, 1908.

RICE SOUP.

BEEF STEAK PIE. ROAST MUTTON.

BOILED POTATOES.

GREEN PEAS. STEWED PEACHES AND RICE.

Those who desire to obtain a delightful book free of charge should write to the Orient Company for particulars of their Spring cruises. The Company are to be congratulated on having secured the magic pen of our brilliant contributor, Mr. Herbert Vivian, for a description of the places to be visited by their steamship *Ormuz*, and on providing a real literary treat in the place of the dry bones of description usually found in similar advertising booklets.

NEW BUSINESS METHODS.

STRIKING DEVELOPMENTS.

If the average man were asked what book published recently in the United Kingdom had had the largest circulation of the Century, he would probably give at random the name of some popular novel, the number of whose many editions has been impressed upon him by constant advertisement.

But it will come as a surprise to many people to find that the record for a phenomenal circulation is held, not by a popular novel, whose title is on everybody's tongue, but by a book of a unique character, insomuch as it is at once a specialist work, and at the same time one dealing with a subject of general and of absorbing interest, and making a

Universal Appeal to Every Man

in the country. The Business Encyclopædia, a work embodying complete, up-to-date and authoritative information on the supremely important subject of Modern Business, has sold in greater quantities than any other work of the Century; that is to say, that over a quarter of a million of volumes have been sold since it was first issued. Its phenomenal success, and the fact that the constant demand has exhausted numerous editions, serves to show how acute was the need for this work. The Business Encyclopædia meets, in the most comprehensive way, the growing demand for knowledge of the means by which commerce may be best organised and most fully developed. It is the first work dealing completely and fully and authoritatively with Business, Money and Trade, under their every aspect, ever published in England. In Germany and in the United States the study of Encyclopædias of Business information forms part of the education of every youth destined for commercial life; and these books are at the elbow of every practical Business man.

One certain result of the constant use of the Business Encyclopædia in England has been the raising of the standard of Business capability, and a consequently greater need of efficiency for every man in Business, whether employer or employed. Hence this further result must follow that no man can now afford to be without the Business Encyclopædia. This work is

A Business Tool,

and as such is equally necessary to the young man, who is ambitious to make a success of his Business life, and to the older man who fears that he will be crowded out of the Business world owing to the strain and stress of the Business fight, and the popularity of newer methods founded on newer ideas. The Business Encyclopædia is absolutely necessary to every man, whether he be clerk, cashier, tradesman, agent, commercial traveller, merchant, manufacturer, solicitor, stockbroker, professional man, capitalist or financier, because the Business Encyclopædia, as well as giving sound foundational Business knowledge, is full of new Business ideas, suggestions as to means of increasing Business, building up Businesses, and extending and developing Business. The Business Encyclopædia is also a complete manual of reference on every point of doubt, difficulty or dispute as to Business, money and trade that besets the busy man in the course of his Business day. That this is so is proved by the fact that there are over 12,000 references in the Index: every subject can therefore be turned up without an instant's loss of time.

More Business.

Every Business man wants to do *more Business*. However brisk business is, he sees no reason why he should not turn over more money with his present expenditure of time and labour and energy. In proportion as a man increases his Business knowledge he increases his Business capacity and initiative. Business initiative is the secret of Business success to-day. Industry alone will never enable a man to outstrip his rivals in Business. The use of the Business Encyclopædia promotes Business efficiency and initiative.

It embodies the most helpful and up-to-date information ever placed at the disposal of Business men. It includes valuable information on every subject connected with Business, as well as lucid articles written by the most capable Business men in the country; amongst these specialist Business men are Mr. Richard Burbidge (Managing Director Harrods', Ltd.), Mr. Carl Hentschel (Managing Director Carl Hentschel, Ltd.), Mr. J. Holt Schooling, the eminent Statistician, and Mr. J. Murray Allison, Advertising Manager to the "Times." These contributors deal in the clearest manner with the various problems of Business Building, office organisation, Business by Post, Establishment and Conduct of Branch Businesses, Wholesale and Retail Advertising &c., &c.

The Business Encyclopædia is edited by Mr. W. S. M. Knight, Barrister-at-Law, who is also responsible for the legal information supplied. The sections devoted to Book-keeping and Accounting is written by Mr. Lawrence R. Dicksee, late Professor of Accounting, London University, assisted by some of the most eminent accountants in the country.

Thousands of first-class firms and business men are to-day using the Business Encyclopædia, and of these some hundreds have written to the publishers in terms of delighted appreciation as to its usefulness. To those who apply for "The Practical Book" (free and post free to readers of JOHN BULL) there will be sent in addition a booklet containing these letters. In the meantime we append

Three Opinions.

1. **Messrs. J S. Fry and Sons. Bristol.**
   "We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is THE work par excellence for every business man."
2. **Abatement of £400 Off Income Tax.**
   Mr. F. J. Campbell, Draper and Milliner, 49, Henry Street, Dublin:—"You will be interested to hear that I have been fortunate in securing an abatement of £400 off this year's Income Tax Assessment. This has been brought about by the careful study of the articles on Income Tax in the 'Business Encyclopædia' and without any outside or expert help whatever.
3. **A Clerk's Opinion.**
   Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnum Road, London, N.:—"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the Business Encyclopædia as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers of the "Business Encyclopædia" have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you post free. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

CAXTON PUBLISHING CO.,
SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

NAME .....

(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

VENICE: "A TRAGEDY."

By S. J. CLIFFORD.

Venice recalls only sad memories to me as we glide along the Grand Canal under the Ponte di Rialto and come to the Bridge of Sighs where the unfortunate prisoners were led from their cells across the old bridge to hear their sentences pronounced in the Judgment Hall of the Doges, and all brings back those memories with vivid clearness.

My previous visit to Venice I vowed would be the last—but it was simply impossible for me to withstand the temptation to revisit the scene where I spent the most delightful, although perhaps saddest time that has ever fallen to the lot of any traveller.

One evening, after listening to several indifferent voices singing "Il Trovatore," on the Grand Casa, I was seized with the desire to hear some of the glorious tenor voices for which the sons of Italy are justly famed, so I betook myself to the shop of one Luigi Casti, who, although beyond three score of years, lacked nothing in enthusiasm.

Upon arriving there I was greeted by the owner of the shop himself, who escorted me to his little old-fashioned room which invariably seemed in a state of indescribable confusion. Here, indeed, was the home of music. Old-fashioned guitars of priceless value; violins of the old masters; a collection of instruments sufficient to equip a good-sized band.

"What is the Signor's pleasure?" asked Casti.

"Well, I don't really know what I do want, unless it be your advice," I answered.

"If the good Signor will express his wants, my services I shall be glad to give," said the old man, "or perhaps if you are oppressed by the rain you would like to come and hear some new songs I have composed for an unknown singer."

"Nothing would give me greater pleasure," I replied.

After traversing some six or seven streets, we arrived at a rather poor-looking house which seemed to depress my spirits more than ever until we entered, when the old man exclaimed in rapturous tones: "The Signor will hear a voice that will enrapture him, a voice which will thrill the whole world with its magic power, and I, Luigi Casti, shall become famous as the great professor who taught Enrico Casparro. But I have forgotten. You do not know that Casparro is blind; an accident robbed him of his sight when he was very young; but I must not keep Casparro waiting, I am already late."

After a little time had elapsed the door opened and in came the professor holding the hand of a horribly misshapen figure—a face terrible to look upon. Great scars across his forehead, glaring sightless eyeballs. I shuddered and began to wish I had never come until the figure began to sing. He sang of Love and Death with such passion that I was thrilled as I never have been before. It was a voice of indescribable beauty.

"Shall he not be famous?" said the professor. "All the world will be enraptured."

"The world shall never know; I have vowed never to sing until my sight is given back to me," exclaimed the tenor. "To-morrow the great surgeon will come and operate, and in a little while my sight will be restored."

"Yes, yes: perhaps it will be so," said the old maestro.

When we reached the street again night had fallen, the rain had ceased, and again there crept over me sadness, as I thought of that hideous face with the glorious voice, and wondered what Casparro would say when he had seen.

"You will come again to hear my pupil?" said the old man.

"Indeed, I shall be most happy to do so," I answered.

After spending three or four days in Rome I journeyed back to Venice to hear the result of the operation.

Going to the small shop of Luigi Casti I found that a little while previous he had been called at the urgent message of a gondolier to go down to one of the many little canals which abound in Venice. I enquired the way, and after walking a little distance came across a strange sight. By the side of the water, standing around a body, over which knelt a crossed figure, were a group of gondoliers talking in whispers.

As the kneeling figure moved away I saw it was the old professor's, stricken with grief, and with a moan he cried, "Why didst thou, O Blessed Virgin, give him back his sight?" I knew then that Casparro had seen.

AMONG THE BOOKS.

By HERBERT VIVIAN.

"Mixed Herbs: A Working Woman's Remonstrance Against the Suffrage Agitation," by M. E. S. (Sampson Low: 2s. net), is only useful as an awful example of garrulity. It begins with long-winded reminiscences which may or may not be intended as a story; it proceeds to recite all the most obvious arguments against women's suffrage; and it contains inordinate footnotes, which the author qualifies as "a severe case of that ancient feminine affliction, the postscript." So far as I can see, the only thing proved is that one particular woman may as well remain without the vote.

"The Common-Sense of the Woman Question," by Millicent Murby (The New Age Press: 1s. net), is a lecture which was delivered to the Fabian Society last April. The arguments are characterised by logic and moderation, which might advantageously be imitated by militant Suffragettes. The little book deserves to be read by all who are interested in this question, whatever their views may happen to be.

"The Education of To-Morrow," by John Stuart Remington (Pitman), contains some interesting comments on the English public school. The author says he feels "like an up-to-date builder, asking for the destruction or rebuilding of some beautiful, ivy-covered cottages, relics, poetical, charming, of a bygone age. For the public schools are still run, apparently, on the assumption that their pupils will all have five hundred a year on coming of age, or else will be going in for teaching, or the Church. The resulting education is as ridiculous, as grotesque in modern life, as a gargoyle fantastically carved would appear on a new office in the Strand." But I do not agree that the modern side is despised or a mere imitation of the classical side. It was not so, at any rate, a quarter of a century ago. Nor would it be advisable for everyone to have a merely commercial training. However, Mr. Remington writes sensibly, sometimes even brilliantly.

"The Sport Set," edited by "The Scout," of the *Daily Express* (6d. monthly), is a bright little magazine which cannot fail to amuse frequenters of the turf.

"In a Street—In a Lane," by N. W. Byng (Elkin Mathews: 1s. 6d. net), contains some pleasant and musical lines which can offend nobody. Let us look at "The Cobweb":—

I think Titania wept last night,
And did for kerchief borrow
This cobweb, swinging in the light,
On which to rain her sorrow.

THE NILE VALLEY GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

DEAR SIR (or MADAM),—Your Board have much pleasure in enclosing an extract of the Mine Manager's latest Report on the Development work, so far carried out, on the property.

When this Company came into possession of your property both the North and South ends of the Mine were in broken and very poor reef, indeed, only the central portion of the reef had been considered worthy of attention by the previous Company.

Your Board, however, were recommended by the new Consulting Engineer to take immediate steps to ascertain whether the reef did not again become of a permanent nature beyond the broken formation to the North and South of the development then completed. He further advised the commencement of prospecting work with the object of discovering parallel lodes or reefs which he maintained should be met with in a formation such as exists on your property.

It is most satisfactory to be able to point out that as regards the reef "making again" with good gold values at the South end of the mine, his predictions have been entirely realised, and your Mine Manager is very confident that another mine on the South extension of the reef may certainly be developed.

The Board regard the opening up of this continuation of the reef, with such high gold values, to be of the utmost importance; as it will considerably add to the mining life of the property.

Prospecting work is now proceeding with the object of finding other reefs on your property, and with every hope of success.

THE MANAGER REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:—

"I am devoting all my energies at present to the South End of the property, the lode has been traced further South and prospected by means of trenches and pits, I have located a site for, and started sinking a new shaft on the extension of the reef south of No. 6 shaft, in an entirely new country, but it is a true extension of the original lode.

"At the point where we are sinking, the lode looks strong, well defined, and has values between 1 oz. and 2 ozs. gold to the ton. I am continuing the drive on the lode South in the level, it is here over 4 ft. in width, still in high grade ore, and looking splendid. I have no longer any doubt as to this portion of the mine becoming a success."

By Order of the Board,
A. P. SPRANGE, Secretary.

Oatine

When the skin is irritated after shaving, use OATINE. It instantly relieves tenderness, and soreness of the skin.

A Free Sample

of Oatine Cream will be sent on application, or for 2d. in stamps a box containing eight of the Oatine preparations and book on Face Massage.

THE OATINE CO., 270a, DENMAN STREET, LONDON, S.E.

The DAILY EXPRESS (1908) (Limited) are ISSUING a PROSPECTUS which states, amongst other things, that The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on TUESDAY, 26th January, 1909, and CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, 28th January, 1909, for London, and the following morning for the Country.
The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

THE DAILY EXPRESS (1908) (LIMITED).

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1907.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £200,000.

Divided into 200,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 EACH.

Five per Cent. First Debentures.....£185,000 Six per Cent. Second Debentures.....£150,000

ISSUE OF £185,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST DEBENTURES of £100 EACH AT PAR,

Payable 10 per cent. on application, 15 per cent. on allotment, 25 per cent. one month after allotment, 25 per cent. two months after allotment. 25 per cent. three months after allotment.

Applicants may, on allotment, or on any date when a subsequent instalment becomes payable, pay in cash the full amount of the Debentures allotted to them, under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The First Debentures will be secured by a trust deed constituting them a first specific charge upon the copyright of the "Daily Express," the leasehold property acquired, and a first floating charge upon the undertaking and other assets of the Company, both present and future, including its uncalled capital.

The trust deed will provide for the payment to the trustees on or before the 30th November in each year, beginning with the year 1909, of the sum of £2,500, to be applied to the redemption of the First Debentures by annual drawings at £105 per cent., and will further provide for the payment to the trustees, in respect of the period ending the 30th June, 1909, and in respect of every subsequent year ending the 30th June, of a sum equivalent to one-half of the net profits of the Company available for distribution by way of dividend to the shareholders of the Company in respect of such period, irrespective of whether such profits shall be distributed or not. The further sum will be applied in like manner in redemption of Debentures by drawings at £105 per cent.

The whole of the First Debentures will, in any event, be repayable at £105 per cent. on or before the 31st December, 1928.

The interest upon the First Debentures will be payable on the 15th January and 15th July in each year, the first payment being made on the 15th July, 1909, and representing interest to that date, calculated from the due dates of payment of the various instalments.

The whole of the Second Debentures and all the Ordinary shares except ten will be taken by the vendor Company in part payment of the purchase consideration.

TRUSTEES FOR THE FIRST DEBENTURE HOLDERS.—Sir JONATHAN E. BACKHOUSE, Bt., J.P., D.L., Banker, Darlington.
ERNEST BURFORD HORLICK, Esq., 35, Elvaston Place, S.W.
DIRECTORS.—C. ARTHUR PEARSON, Esq., Newspaper Proprietor, Chairman, Frensham Place, Farnham.
JOSEPH J. CANDLISH, Esq., J.P., Manufacturer, Shotton Halls, Castle Eden, co. Durham.
GEORGE LAWSON JOHNSTON, Esq., 22, Portman Square, W.
EDWARD H. JOHNSTONE, Esq., Newspaper Manager, 23, St. Bride St., E.C.
GEORGE WETTON, Esq., Advertisement Manager, 23, St. Bride St., E.C.
BANKERS.—LLOYD'S BANK, Limited, 222, Strand, W.C.; Head Office, 71, Lombard Street, E.C., and branches.
SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—HARRISON AND DAVIES, 13, Gt. James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.
SOLICITORS FOR THE TRUSTEES FOR THE FIRST DEBENTURE HOLDERS.—ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP AND CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.
AUDITORS.—DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS AND CO., 5, London Wall Buildings, E.C.
ACCOUNTANT.—ERNEST J. THOL, A.C.A., 90, Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.
BROKERS.—London: PIM, VAUGHAN AND CO., 1, Drapers' Gardens, E.C., and Stock Exchange. Cardiff: THACKERAY AND CO., 3, Dock Chambers, Cardiff, and Stock Exchange.
SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—H. KESSELL, 23, ST. BRIDE STREET, London, E.C.

The company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the "Daily Express" newspaper, in the foundation and equipment of which a very large amount of capital has been expended, the leasehold of the premises upon which the "Daily Express" is now printed and published, together with all plant, machinery, type, furniture, fittings, and other effects contained therein, the property of the vendor company, and used in the production of the paper, the benefit of all current contracts for the services of the existing staff, for the supply of paper and other commodities, and for advertising and distribution, together with the copyright of the "Daily Express."

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co. have given the following certificate as to profits:

To the Directors, "Daily Express" (Limited).

We have examined the books of the "Daily Express" Newspapet, London, for the three years ended 30th June, 1908, and after making such adjustments as are, in our opinion, necessary, we find the profits, before charging income tax, interest, and directors' and managing director's remuneration, to have been as follows:

Year ended 30th June,	1906	£10,107	19 9
Do. do.	1907	14,191	5 3
Do. do.	1908	22,819	12 5

In arriving at these profits all repairs and renewals of machinery, plant, and type have been charged, and a sum has been set aside which, in the opinion of Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, and Co., is simply sufficient to cover depreciation and provide a reserve for obsolescence.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, and CO.,
7th December, 1908. Chartered Accountants.

The "Daily Express" was founded in April, 1900, and its position among the leading newspapers of London has for some years been assured. It will be seen that the profits earned by the paper have rapidly increased, and the increase is being maintained.

The profits earned during the year ended 30th June, 1908, are, as shown above, sufficient to pay the interest on the First Debentures more than twice over, while the last audited accounts—for the period 1st January to 30th June, 1908—show a profit at a rate sufficient to pay such interest nearly three times over, and the profits for the current year—i.e., from 1st July—so far as they have been ascertained, show an improvement at the rate of 50 per cent. over those for the corresponding period of the year ending 30th June, 1908.

Both the sales and advertisement revenue of the business have shown a steady improvement since the inception of the paper, and the sales revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1907, as compared with the year ending 31st December, 1901, showing an increase of over £45,000, and the advertisement revenue for the same periods an increase of over £35,000, making together a total increase of revenue of nearly £81,000. The revenue both from sales and advertisements has been larger during the year 1908 than during any other year in the existence of the paper.

The company will take over the business as from the 31st December, 1908, and the vendor company will pay and discharge all its liabilities up to that date. The cash received by the vendor company will further be utilised to replace sums already expended on the business and to extinguish the existing Debenture issue, but Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, confident in the future of the paper, has agreed not to withdraw any part of his investment in cash, and Mr. G. Lawson Johnston, so long associated with him as one of the founders of the "Daily Express," has in respect of his personal investment agreed to take the same course, both gentlemen accepting in full discharge of their proprietary rights in the assets of the vendor company Ordinary shares and Debentures second to those now offered for public subscription. No further Second Debentures will be issued.

Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, and Mr. E. H. Johnstone, who has been associated with him in the conduct of the paper since its inception, have consented to continue their services for a period of at least ten years, the former as chairman and managing director.

The present issue will provide the company with a cash working capital of about £28,000, after payment of the proportion of the preliminary expenses to be borne by the company, which is estimated at about £2,000.

Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, G. Lawson Johnston, and E. H. Johnstone are interested in the sale to the company as directors and holders of shares and Debentures in the vendor company to the following extent: Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, 1,598 shares and £137,500 Debentures; Mr. G. Lawson Johnston, 104 shares and £4,500 Debentures, and as a beneficiary to an interest in 336 shares and £35,500 Debentures held in trust; Mr. E. H. Johnstone, 255 shares.

Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, in consideration of services rendered by Mr. G. Lawson Johnston, will make up the latter's personal holding of Second Debentures in the company to £9,900.

A copy of the company's memorandum of association is endorsed on and forms part of the prospectus.

Application will be made in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchange to grant a settlement and quotation of the First Debentures.

Application for First Debentures should be made on the form accompanying this prospectus, and forwarded to the company's bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable upon application. Cheques should be made payable to bearer, and crossed Lloyds Bank, Limited.

A brokerage of ¼ per cent. will be paid by the company on all Debentures allotted in respect of applications (other than underwriters' applications) bearing brokers' stamps.

If in any case the number of Debentures allotted be less than that applied for, the balance of the sum paid on application will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

Failure to pay any future instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Copies of the above-mentioned contracts, the certificate of the auditors, a draft of the proposed First Debenture trust deed, which contains power for a prescribed majority to bind a minority, and a print of the memorandum and articles of association of the company, can be seen at the offices of the solicitors during business hours on any day while the subscription list is open.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the bankers, solicitors, and brokers, and at the offices of the company.

THE DAILY EXPRESS (1908) (Limited).

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1907).

No. 74.

ISSUE OF

£185,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST DEBENTURES of £100 EACH, at PAR.

To the Directors of the "Daily Express" (1908) (Limited)

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers, Lloyds Bank, Limited, the sum of £ , being a deposit of 10 per cent. on an application for Five per Cent. First Debentures of £100 each, I-we hereby request you to allot me-us that amount upon the terms of the Company's prospectus, dated 15th January, 1909, and I-we hereby agree to accept the same, or any less amount allotted to me-us, and to pay the instalments thereon as the same become due.

Name (In full) .....
(If a lady, state whether Mrs. or Miss.)
Address .....
.....
Occupation .....
Usual Signature .....
Dated ..... 1909.

All cheques to be made payable to the company's bankers. A separate cheque should accompany each separate application.

OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.

MY DEAR OLD JOE,—I see that you have again consented to stand for West Birmingham, but that "you may have to ask your constituents to excuse you speaking in public during the contest." While men of all parties would welcome your reappearance in public life, I fear that your request must be accepted as your own verdict on the chances of your ever again taking part as a leader in the rough-and-tumble of politics. Still, it would be a great example of political and municipal gratitude if West Birmingham again elected you, as I doubt not it will, for the constituency in foul weather and fair has never turned its back on you, never wavered in its loyalty to you, and never faltered in its faith in you. And it will not do so now, even though in again returning you to Parliament it will be practically disenfranchising itself. If I were an elector in the division, I should certainly give you my vote.

It was one of life's unpitying ironies that you were struck down at the summit of your power and influence; and in the hard decree which keeps your unconquerable spirit inactive, and sets the seal of silence on your lips, there is a poignant note of tragedy which makes sad music for all our hearts. But it is written, in all its bitter truth; and were I, at your age, as you are, I think I should bow my head, leaving political strife and all thoughts of it to those who are better able to take the blows. If you again resumed your place in the fight, you might strike as you would. None would lift a hand to ward the blow; none would return it lest it might wound you. You have done the work that was in you to do. Now rest. It is wiser and better so.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. J. H. Brooksbank, Baptist Minister, Chesham, Bucks.

REV. SIR,—You are reported as having said during the course of a sermon that "we could not expect our young women to be moral serving behind bars, and the bill for their immorality would be brought home to us." Challenged to prove this statement, you reply, "I did not in any shape or form bring any accusation against barmaids as a body." The matter, therefore, should be settled between yourself and the reporter. Probably you said what you didn't mean or meant what you didn't say.

As a class, I think it is probable that barmaids are as moral as any other class of working women, not even excluding the housemaids of Baptist ministers. When you have occasion to discuss the licensing question from your pulpit again, do, please, leave them out of your remarks. Surely it is cowardly to make innuendoes which you are unable to sustain by facts! It is as easy for a barmaid to be a good woman as it is for a woman employed in any other business to be good. If she goes to the bad as a barmaid, she would probably have gone to the bad as attendant in a bun and milk shop, or even as a Sunday-school teacher. If you are unaware of these things, then I beg that you will take an early opportunity of praying for light.

JOHN BULL.

To R. Gardner, Esq., J.P., Chairman Board of Guardians, Holyhead.

DEAR SIR,—In the course of some remarks at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians, you expressed the opinion that the inmates of the workhouse, other than the children and the feeble-minded, had much too good a time at Christmas. The dinner provided, you said, was better than that enjoyed by many of the ratepayers, "whose money went towards providing the feast, and they should discourage such a thing in the future."

Now, sir, you are a wealthy man, and, whenever I find a wealthy man, who lacks nothing at Christmas time, spouting against the once-a-year festivities of paupers, I do not feel disposed to say nice things about him. I feel more in the mood to look up the dictionary for a suitable selection of adjectives.

I don't like the spirit of your grumble, for one thing; and I don't like the way you manipulate the facts, for another. The Christmas treat to the inmates of the workhouse cost the ratepayers very little indeed, most of the fare being provided by the kindly generosity of townspeople who wanted the poor folk to have a good time. You forget, too, that the inmates have paid poor rates at one time, and that, while they were paying them, they probably little thought the time would come when they would have to seek in "the house" a shelter for their heads. While the Christmas table of wealthy men like you groans with plenty, would you see the poor with their mouths to the floor, licking up the crumbs which fall, or waiting with the dog and cat for the leavings of your plate?

It may be true—I daresay it is—that there are now in Holyhead Workhouse some people who would not have been there but for what is called "their own fault." They are down and done for, anyhow, and Christmas Day is not the time to play Retributive Justice in the tragedy of human lives by denying to them a small measure of good cheer. Even if the Christmas treat be an overflowing of human generosity, you might have remembered that it overflows only once a year, and have held your peace about it. Personally, I think one-half of the world should always have some practical experience of how the other half lives. If I had the ordering of this world, one of the things I should do every Christmas Day would be to make all the poor feel how nice it is to be rich, and all the rich feel how nasty it is to be poor. In such circumstances, my dear sir, I can see you carving, not a turkey, but a two-eyed steak, if lucky; if not, carving the air with a shiver down your back and a yawning void in your little Mary. Therefore, thank heaven that I am not running the terrestrial ball.

JOHN BULL.

To Miss Violet Charlesworth, Carmelite Street.

DEAR VI.,—Congratulations on your literary and artistic engagements. Your brokers will be pleased. But you will have to think of some new sensations if you are to keep your job. Why not take a libel action against the yellow newspapers who called you and your sister liars? You were quite justified in denying your identity to unauthorised enquirers. You may remember that Sir Walter Scott did the same.

JOHN BULL.

Lord St. Aldwyn, Coln St. Aldwyn, Gloucestershire.

You are reported objecting to jokes of Lloyd George. Nobody ever objected to yours. You are the only Chancellor of the Exchequer who never made one.

BULL.

Sultan of Turkey, Constantinople.

Accept my sympathy on decease of your third wife. Allah console you with the others.

BULL.

Rev. John Wakeford, Vicar St. Margarets, Anfield, Liverpool.

You say in address at Liverpool that future of religion in this country lays with Church of England. Sorry for country. Didn't think things as bad as that.

BULL.

Smyth-Pigott, Abode of Lust, Spaxton.

"If you see it in JOHN BULL, it *is* so"—isn't it? Now, just hurry up and clear out, or I shall come down with my dog.

BULL.

Horace Avery, K.C., Temple.

Sincere congratulations—I saw you smile the other day. Can't you tell Muir the joke? Wait till I catch *him*—smiling!

BULL.

Lord Advocate, Edinburgh.

Do not bring Scottish Bar into disrepute. It is not good form to allude to a lady by her surname alone merely because she happens to have been divorced. Nor is it quite the thing to worry a lady about her age.

BULL.

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THE TARIFF REFORM JONAHS.

IN THE CITY.

THE ECLIPSE BOILER FURNACE (LONDON AND SOUTH), LIMITED.

A PIG IN A POKE.

In our last issue we directed attention to the very speculative character of this company, and it may be useful if we examine its claims to public confidence a little more closely, more especially as its chairman is Mr. Oswald Nettlefold, Governing Director of Nettlefold and Sons, Limited.

The company is formed to acquire and work the Eclipse boiler furnace, but a curious feature in this connection is that the licence to work is confined, as the sub-title of the company implies, to London and certain Southern Counties of England. We remember no similar limitation, and it is difficult to understand why a company should be formed to work a furnace not over the whole country where orders can be got, but only within a certain portion of it, and that part of it least likely to want furnaces. For in the South of England boilers and steam power are much less used than throughout the northern part of the kingdom.

Having regard to the disastrous history of companies formed in the past to work boilers supposed to possess exceptional advantages, the prudent investor will examine narrowly the claims of the present company to confidence, and he will search for them in vain in the prospectus submitted to the public. We are told that the proofs of the presumed practical excellence of the Eclipse furnace were obtained by the E. B. F. Syndicate, Ltd., at certain tests they made with a new Lancashire boiler, alternately using an ordinary furnace and an Eclipse furnace, but the E. B. F. Syndicate can hardly be considered an independent investigator of the merits of the furnace, seeing that it is to receive from the vendor £6,500 for its services in procuring the subscription of £12,500 of the capital of the company.

The directors "feel confident" that the boiler will be adopted by "steam raisers," not, be it noted, steam users. They go on to say "for obvious reasons the directors do not think it expedient to disclose the manufacturing cost, or the profit which will be made by the company at each installation, but even if the furnaces were adapted to only a small percentage of the boilers in the area of the licence of the company and no new boilers were laid down within that area, the return of the company's capital with a handsome profit to the shareholders is assured." That may or may not be. We have read the same sort of assurance often enough before in the prospectuses of companies that never paid a dividend, and be it as it may, it is mere assertion. As we read this prospectus it looks as if on experiments carried out by interested parties the public are invited to subscribe for a pig in a poke, so far as steam users' views and opinions are concerned, and to be relegated with a pig in a poke to exploit their furnace in the least remunerative portion of the United Kingdom.

* * * * *

With reference to this matter, we have received a letter in which the writer asserts that "there have been at least a thousand patents taken out in this direction, many of them fairly successful under ideal conditions, but the number of failures have been so great that they have been swept out of the market." And, again, with reference to the statement of the prospectus which says that "no method was known to engineers by which the highly volatile gases resulting from the combustion of coal could be consumed within the boiler, and consequently these gases are discharged into the atmosphere," our correspondent writes, "There are plenty of mechanical stokers and furnaces actually doing this work at the present moment in hundreds of factories and works all over Great Britain, including London and Birmingham." And he adds that "a number of machines are constantly burning bituminous low grade slacks smokelessly, and show considerable saving over expensive Welsh coal. At least 20,000 of these furnaces are at work."

Our surprise is that the promoters of this concern should have been able to persuade Mr. Nettlefold to be chairman of the company.

THE PROVINCIAL HOMES INVESTMENT COMPANY.

Many readers will remember the strong view we held as against Judge Parry's decisions in certain cases where members of the Company claimed to have their payments returned to them on the ground of misrepresentation. The Court of Appeal has lent no countenance to Judge Parry's sweeping condemnation of the methods of the Company. On the contrary, in the cases to which we are now particularly referring, as in a previous case, it was held that no blame attaches to the Company, for the reasons with which our readers are familiar. Referring to the alleged misrepresentations of what is known as the white book, the Master of the Rolls said:—

> In the first place, he thought that there were no misstatements at all in the white book. This book was a popular statement of the merits of the company's system. It did not profess to be exhaustive or complete. It was a general statement of the objects and result of the system, which in terms referred to other documents as containing particulars which from the nature of the case could not be expected to be set out in a document of this kind. (His Lordship then dealt specifically with the alleged misstatements, and stated that he thought that the various statements in the white book which were complained of were in substance accurate, and continued.) It was therefore impossible to rely on the alleged misstatements, and in his Lordship's opinion no one of them was a misstatement.

Again:—

> Another ground was the form of proposal signed by Hill. That contained an express notice to him that the only contract between him and the company was the contract contained in the certificate. The plaintiff sent in his proposal with this notice upon it, and obtained a certificate in the usual form. In the absence of fraud, it was not open for him years afterwards to go behind the certificate and say that he was induced to enter into the contract by something contained in the white book in the face of the express notice that the certificate was the only contract. On all these grounds this action also failed, and the appeal must be allowed.

This opinion of the Master of the Rolls, concurred in by Lords Justices Moulton and Buckley, are in significant and striking contrast to the pronouncements of the Manchester County Court Judge.

THE PEKIN SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

At the last general meeting of this Company a resolution was passed to the following effect:—

> "That unification of the different classes of Shares is advisable. That a committee of two representatives of each class of shareholders be appointed to consider with the directors the scheme proposed by Mr. Torr, and any other suggestions that may be made, and that the board of directors should have the power to add to the number of the committee."

The Committee was formed and had a number of meetings, but the result of the discussions was to show that unanimity amongst the Committee could not be secured.

The time is approaching for the next annual meeting, and the directors feel it incumbent on them, in view of the generally expressed desire for a unification, to make an effort to solve the question. In approaching this task, the leading principle which the directors have had in view has been that any scheme emanating from the Board, which represents all three classes of shareholders, must as far as possible be based on existing rights—firstly, as regards participation in profits, and secondly, as regards distribution of assets in event of a winding up; and that, if any of these rights had to be modified, compensation in some reasonable form should be offered to the parties so affected. On examining the scheme submitted by the majority of the Unification Committee, it was the opinion of the Board that this scheme did in effect satisfy these conditions, and accordingly the Board have adopted it in the main, with certain modifications in respect to the reorganisation of capital and the nominal value of the converted shares. The scheme as modified was submitted to the Unification Committee, and has been approved of by six out of the eight members.

In endeavouring to bring about a reorganisation and unification of shares, the directors have only the interests of the shareholders to serve, but they wish to add that their task as directors would be very much simplified if unification of any sort could be effected. The time approaches when a profit and loss account must be drawn up, and the directors foresee many difficulties in doing so. In point of fact two profit and loss accounts must be drawn up, one for the Shansi shares, and one for the ordinary and deferred shares. In apportioning the profits on the one hand and the expenditure on the other, between the two sets of shareholders, many thorny questions will arise. Any division which the directors may make might be challenged by one side or the other, giving rise to litigation, which probably would be expensive, and certainly tedious, and would delay any distribution of profits. By the scheme now propounded all these difficulties disappear. There will be one class of shareholders only, and the preparation of a profit and loss account will be a simple and easy matter.

THE NILE VALLEY GOLD MINING COMPANY.

When we referred to the position of this company in September last we expressed the hope that the extra £10,000 which had then become available for the purposes of development would result in the disclosure of similar rich patches to the block of 500 tons which produced £44,000, especially as rich stringers had been encountered on the way down to the 420 feet level. Since then reports of the mine have been very favourable, and in his latest report the manager states that he no longer has any doubt as to the southern portion of the mine becoming a great success. He is also confident of locating another reef, and with this idea cross cutting is being pushed on. We direct attention to the circular from the directors of the company which appears on another page. The shares have risen to the neighbourhood of 5s. 6d., and having regard to the present outlook at the mine they would seem to represent a promising speculative purchase.

We have received the sixty-first half-yearly report of the London Trading Bank, Ltd. The directors propose to pay the usual dividend of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended December 31st, 1908.

NEW ISSUE.

We direct attention to the prospectus of the *Daily Express* (1908), Limited, which appears on another page. £185,000 is offered for subscription in 5 per cent. first debentures of £100 each at par. It will be seen from the certificate of Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., that the profits of the *Daily Express* have more than doubled during the last three years, and that they are sufficient to pay the interest on the first debentures nearly three times over.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES CORPORATION.—L. W. B. (Manchester).—(1) The liquidation is taking the ordinary course. For information respecting it, you should apply to the liquidator. (2) We have no information respecting the foreign brewery shares to which you refer. SPECULATOR (Sheffield).—The receipt for the 15s 6d. should be sent to the liquidator, but we are afraid it will be of small value to you or anybody else.

FARROW'S BANK.—F. T. B. (Tottenham).—We do not think you need be under any apprehension as to the stability of the company.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—YACHTSMAN (Acton).—Yes, we have heard a good deal about them, and cannot advise you to have dealings with them. J. M. (Streatham Hill).—You would be very foolish to entrust any money to the people you name, or, for that matter, to anybody else, for the purpose of Stock Exchange gambling. F. W. S. (Newmarket).—Our advice to you is to have nothing to do with it. SPHINX (Gravesend).—Better have nothing to do with any of them. You would only lose your money if you did.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—C. E. (Wells).—As Homesteads, Limited, give full value in land at the expiration of five years, we should advise you to complete the remaining year and send for their catalogue of properties and select something to the value of money you have paid. You could then cancel certificate—that is, supposing you don't want to borrow the £300 that you will be entitled to in twelve months' time.

CONGO BOND.—J. B. (Coulsdon).—The present price for these bonds is about £3 10s. 6d.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—H. S. (Plymouth).—No we do not consider it "a good investment."

LONDON ELECTROBUS COMPANY, LIMITED.—R. B. L. (Gateshead-on-Tyne).—We do not agree with Messrs. Albert Greisbach and Co. as to the attractiveness of these shares. They represent a highly speculative enterprise, and the fact that the shares can be bought at a heavy discount is sufficient proof of what the public thinks of the prospects of the company.

SALES AND COMPANY.—F. M. (Battersea).—We note that your sister paid these people £6 2s. at the beginning of last month in order to advertise her business, but, not hearing from them, she got a friend to call, and found that they had not been in their office for some weeks. You should apply to the police, but then you say you have done so, and they inform you that they know nothing of these people. We really do not know how to help you in the matter.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—F. H. W. (Soho Square).—It is not high.

POSITION OF BANK.—J. B. (Leicester).—We know nothing to its discredit.

IND, COOPE AND COMPANY.—G. L. (Hither Green).—Yours is a preferential claim, and we do not think you need be under any anxiety as to your £200. You may rest assured that Mr. Whinney will do what is right in the matter.

REALISATION OF STOCKS.—TREBOR (Birmingham).—No doubt you could do a good deal better by changing your investments, and we see little likelihood of those you hold improving in value in the near future.

LONDON AND BRITISH STOCK AND SHARE CORPORATION.—G. F L. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—Have nothing to do with the "special stock operation" of these people, and do not be beguiled by their talk about "handsome profit" of £16 5s. on each £5 share.

A.B.C. CAB COMPANY.—R. N. (Harlesden).—You are, of course, liable for unpaid calls upon the shares you hold.

GALVEZ RUBBER ESTATE, LIMITED.—A. C. (Birkenhead).—We can understand your hesitation. Our advice to you is not to accept the offer of Messrs. J. Henry Iredale and Co.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING SOCIETY.—CAUTIOUS (Harlesden).—Yes, we think so. You need not worry yourself about the mis-spelling of your Christian name.

THE NATIONAL AMALGAMATED UNION OF SHOP ASSISTANTS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND CLERKS.—GENERAL SECRETARY.—We are much obliged to you for sending us a copy of your last annual report and balance-sheet, and copy of your rules. We are glad to know that "the general financial position augurs well for the future." The objects of your union must commend themselves to all right-minded men. DEVONIA (Guernsey).—We note that your experience with this union enables you to speak well of it.

DELIVERY OF CERTIFICATE.—A. B. F. (Farnham).—You would first have transfer and then a certificate, but there is sometimes delay in sending the certificate.

THE CENTRAL STOCK EXCHANGE, LIMITED.—H. T. C. (Southend-on-Sea).—You should have put the circular into the fire.

THE EQUITY £40 LOAN CLUB, LIMITED.—J. W. W. (Nottingham).—It is impossible for us to say, upon the information you send us, the amount you have still to pay. We return your card.

INTEREST IN POLICIES.—BRITISH LEGAL (Glasgow).—You could not enforce your claim in the Courts. The amalgamation would seem to be advantageous.

SAFE DEPOSIT.—H, F. M. (Highgate).—We think it would be safe, but we should prefer an institution with larger reserves and with a longer record. J. C. (Chelsea).—We never recommend depositing with people who offer such a high rate of interest.

UNITED STOCK AND SHARE CORPORATION.—E. C. C. (Southwold).—In our opinion you would be very foolish to risk £10 or tenpence in this "special stock combine system" which is to give "clear cash profit of £31 10s. on every £10 subscribed." W. F. (Nottingham).—Our opinion is that you should throw the printed matter you send us into the fire. We note that you had a circular in identical terms some days ago from the Scottish Stock Exchange.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.—W. C. (Norwich).—We know of no reason why you should not do so.

THE WORKINGTON IRON COMPANY.—W. H. L. (Cheriton).—Yes, it is a sound company, and at their present price its shares give a handsome yield.

M. DREWITT.—H. F. H. (Dublin).—The waste-paper basket is the place for the circulars you send us.

AMERICAN EXPLORATION COMPANY.—J. L. D. (Southport).—We cannot advise you to purchase any of these bonds. We return the one you sent us.

ELBERGER SYNDICATE.—W. F. (Leeds).—We have no information respecting the syndicate. Why not apply to the Secretary. Apparently the office of the company is in your town.

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE, LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY.—W. L. (Bristol).—If the facts are as you state them, you should consult a solicitor.

IRON AND STEEL COMPANY.—R. J. R. (Portsmouth).—We should prefer another selection.

PREMIUM BONDS.—GREENHORN (Wrexham).—The "Bondholders' Register" will give you the information you want.

HAMBURG LOTTERIES.—A. W. T. (Edinburgh).—Better have nothing to do with them.

THE UNITED KINGDOM FEDERATION SOCIETY, LIMITED.—ADMIRER (Liverpool).—We will make inquiry, and let you know next week.

INSURANCE ENQUIRIES.

PROVINCIAL HOMES INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—H. S. (Dewsbury).—We think you had better continue. A. H. (West Smethwick).—It is of no use consulting a solicitor. You say you hold a certificate upon which you have paid for four and a half years. You must either continue to hold it until it possesses a surrender value, sell it, or allow it to lapse. There is nothing for a solicitor to do in any one of these cases. F. J. B. (Hampton Court).—We gather from your letter that your case against the company is now *pendente lite*. In these circumstances we are precluded from going into the matter, but we may say that, assuming your statement of facts to be correct, you have ground for serious complaint. We return the enclosures in your letter.

SICK AND BIRTH SOCIETY.—DUDLEY (Stoke-on-Trent).—You can insist upon the conditions under which you joined being fulfilled.

PILOT ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—PILOT (Bishopsgate).—We think not.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—E. S. (Sunderland).—We think you had better keep up the payments.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—A. S. (Durham).—It is a society of the highest standing, being by far the largest British life assurance institution not possessing an industrial department, and it has a splendid bonus history. The bonuses it has declared have been for the four past successive divisions at the very high compound rate of £1 14s. per cent. per annum, which gives an over-average amount to bonuses in the case of the youngest policies and greatly increased bonuses to those of long duration. The original sums assured have in many instances been doubled; in extreme cases they have been more than trebled through these reversionary additions. Prospects are favourable for the company to maintain its fine bonus traditions on the occasion of the next septennial division, for a comparison of results with the basis issued in 1901 shows large profits from interest, economy and longevity.

GENERAL ACCIDENT, FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—R. G. T. B (Blackfriars).—It is quite genuine.

SELF-HELP ASSURANCE COMPANY.—E. H. (Eltham Park).—We see no good reason why you should not do so.

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—SYMPATHISER (Sheffield).—We have made inquiries into the facts of this case, and we cannot agree with you that Mrs. Ward has been "brutally" treated by the Royal Liver Friendly Society, or that she has any ground of complaint. What are the facts? Francis Ward, the husband, walked out of his house some twelve months ago, and has never been seen or heard of since. The wife says that he had become queer in his mind, otherwise there was no reason for his action. Mrs. Ward is strongly of opinion that her husband has met his death by falling down one of several large holes, or old pit shafts, which are quite near his house, but no trace of him can be found, or will be found if that is the case. Mrs. Ward kept the insurance going for some time, but ultimately was obliged to get in arrears. She mentioned the matter to the society's collector, and he advised her that there were only two courses open—to keep the husband's insurance on, and, if proof of his death were furnished, the society would return all premiums overpaid and pay the claim, or let it lapse. Mrs. Ward had the position fully explained to her, not "brutally or bluntly," as the society naturally wished to keep the business, if at all possible, and may fairly be credited with being sorry for her position. If Mrs. Ward will obtain an order of the Court presuming the death of her husband, we have reason to believe that the management of the Royal Liver Society would be prepared to pay at once the full sum assured. We do not think that they can be expected to do more.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—M. B. J. (Bristol).—We will go further into the matter in our next issue. T. B. S. (Finsbury Park).—The person who told you that this company is not a sound company is either a rogue or a fool.

LIVERPOOL LEGAL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—READER (Tollesbury).—Yes, they are "clean, straightforward people."

INSURABLE INTEREST.—J. G. (Enfield).—Your friend advised you correctly.

THE MAJESTIC INSURANCE COMPANY.—R. H. D. (Peckham).—We note what you say, and that you are quite satisfied with the way in which the company has treated you.

THRONE INSURANCE COMPANY.—G. B. (Camberwell).—The answer is in the negative. J. C. (London).—Ditto.

MIS-STATEMENT UPON POLICY.—H. W. D. (London).—If, as you say, your mis-statement has made no other difference than that you pay rather more than you would have if you had stated your true age, it still remains a mis-statement, and makes the policy voidable. Your better way would be to make a clean breast of it to the company, and we have no doubt that the matter will then be easily arranged.

NORWICH UNION LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—PANIS (Nottingham).—This office is a very enterprising and progressive one, founded on the mutual system. We see no reason why you should not join the pension scheme to which you refer.

THE LIFE AND HEALTH ASSURANCE COMPANY.—H. B. (Manchester).—The annual report and balance-sheet just issued disclosed a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The net premiums received, after allowing for cancelmen's, amounted to £15,276, against which claims paid and outstanding reach £19,520. The net loss on the year's trading, according to the revenue account, was £15,472. If the item, "Establishment of Business Account, £11,017," was written off, as it ought to be, and the depreciated securities taken at their market value, the deficit shown on the balance-sheet would exceed £20,000, a sum equal to the whole of the paid-up ordinary shares, plus four-fifths of the preference shares. The ordinary shares are £5 each, with £1 paid, and we cannot see how a call is to be avoided.

THE CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—POLICY HOLDER (London).—The directors attribute the unsatisfactory result of the year's transactions to "unexpectedly reckless competition on the part of certain insurance companies," and there is a good deal to be said in support of that explanation.

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

LAW IN GUERNSEY..

In a recent issue we directed attention to the complaint of a Guernsey correspondent as to the way in which justice is administered in that island. "A man," wrote our correspondent, "may be in business here owing money to many creditors. One of these creditors, without bringing him before the Court, can obtain an arrest and turn him out of his business at a moment's notice without consulting other creditors. If no other arrest is made within so many days the arresting creditor has the preference over all others." We said we found it difficult to believe that this is a correct interpretation of Guernsey law, and we added that perhaps one of our Guernsey readers, a lawyer, might be disposed to make some comments upon our correspondent's statement. The "Guernsey Express," acting upon this invitation, writes as follows:—

> To some extent, the statements made are correct. The expression, "One of these creditors, without bringing him before the Court, can obtain an arrest and turn him out of his business at a moment's notice," should, however, be qualified. The arrest can only be obtained in the case of an acknowledged debt, such as a bill, cheque, or money due for rent. The arrest is, of course, signed by the bailiff, or one of his lieutenants, who, of course, satisfies himself that the debt is an acknowledged one. If the arrest was for a very large amount, it is quite possible that the Sheriff might feel it to be his duty to close the business of the debtor, immediately. Theoretically, if no other arrest is made within a fortnight from the confirmation of the arrest, the arresting creditor has preference over all others. In practice, among members of the local Bar, this theoretical right is waived.

THE LAW OF DIVORCE.

It is very seldom we see the Court of Appeal sitting, as it will next week, with its full complement of six Judges. It does so for the purpose of deciding an important question of divorce law. It arises from a species of conflict of laws. The Divorce Acts define the desertion which, coupled with misconduct, entitles a wife to a divorce. An Act passed in 1895 gives a magistrate the power to grant a separation order to a wife on the ground of desertion or cruelty. The divorce judge said that the desertion under the 1895 Act is not sufficient, although coupled with subsequent misconduct, to entitle a wife to a decree. This appeal will test whether the law as it stands is sufficient to obviate the change in it which Sir Gorell Barnes, in refusing the first decree on the subject, said he thought necessary to relieve the situation. He pointed out that as a result of the Act of 1895 7,000 separation orders were granted to women, who were unable to divorce their husbands or to marry again.

COMPENSATION.

According to Mr. Justice Neville's ruling in a case just decided, the rule as to compensation under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts of 1890 to 1903 differs from that under the famous Land Clauses Act of 1845. Under the former Act compensation can in certain cases be legally awarded for the loss of custom in connection with loss of business profits. In the case before Mr. Justice Neville certain buildings had been removed under the Working Class Housing Acts, and the lighting of premises in which the business of a butcher was carried on had been injuriously affected. It was further said that as a result of these building alterations the business had fallen off. There was no question but that the owner of the premises was entitled to compensation in respect to the loss of light, but Mr. Justice Neville held that in regard to loss of business there was under this Act no claim.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

POWERS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.—HAVIS (Cowes).—The sanitary inspector has no jurisdiction over such matters as you mention. As the lessee undertook to keep the premises in repair, she must do what is necessary, unless she can show that the landlord has not fulfilled his bargain.

POST BOX IN WALL.—S. L. T. (Gwallod).—We doubt if the Post Office will pay a rental, but they will, on application, give you an acknowledgment that they have your permission to place the box in the wall, and will undertake to remove it when required.

PROPERTY IN PATENTS.—H. T. (Crossgates).—You should inquire at the Patent Office whether the patents are still alive. If they are, the patentee's next-of-kin can dispose of them if a purchaser can be found.

DEDUCTION FROM WAGES.—E. O. (Willesden Green).—If the servant has done wilful damage, you can sue her, but you are not entitled without her consent to make any deduction from her wages.

LIABILITY FOR INCOME TAX.—G. H. P. (Birmingham).—If your income does not exceed £150 a year, you should apply to the Inland Revenue Commissioners for the return of the tax that has been deducted during the past three years.

RETURN OF TAX.—CYMRO (Lougharne).—If you can show that you have been entitled to exemption from tax during the past three years, you should apply to the surveyor of taxes for a form on which to apply for the return of the tax.

SECURITY FOR LOAN.—A. STAHL (London).—The best course is to take a promissory note payable on demand, and this must be written on stamped paper, which can be bought at any Post Office. (Fee, 9d.) You should also have a letter from the borrower setting forth the items on which the money is to be repaid, and you should get this stamped at Somerset House.

ACTION FOR SLANDER.—E. T. (Hexham).—You cannot hope to win an action for slander unless you have a witness to prove that the slander was uttered. If no one hears what is said, no harm can be done.

OBTAINING LEGACIES.—E. M. (Balgair).—We do not advise you to employ a solicitor, as the legacies are so small. Your proper course is to write to the executors.

A SPECIAL OFFER TO SMOKERS.

Have you sampled our Jamaica Cigars (equal to Havanas and half the price)? If not, fill in the following coupon and post to us together with P.O., Cheque, or Stamps, for 5/-, saying which brand out of this list you prefer, also stating strength you like.

FLOR, 80/- per 100 .. ..5½ ins. long.	PERFECTOS, 45/- per 100 ..5 ins. long.
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Our imported Egyptian Cigarettes are the cheapest and best sold on the market. The "Seymour," 6/6 per 100, and "Lord Rothschild" (Gold-tipped), 9/6 per 100.

Turkish or Virginian Cigarettes (both Ladies' and Gentlemen's) from 5/6 per 100.

Tobacco Mixture: Medium, 10/- per lb.; Mild, 12/- per lb.

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AMONG THE MUMMERS.

ANOTHER GAIETY SUCCESS.

"Our Miss Gibbs" at the Gaiety is the high water-mark of Edwardesian musical play production: the one and only George has never shown us anything better at the one and only Gaiety. Miss Gertie Millar is positively great; and her Moon song will be hummed by everybody in London within a fortnight. So will Miss Jean Aylwin's song about hats; and Junior George Grossmith's catchy trifle "It's Hughie!" may very well provide the town with a new and infectious phrase. Of course the ladies dresses are delightful; and the ladies inside them are beautiful beyond credence. If you don't believe me, go and see for yourself, or apply at once to Our Young Nobility.

A "LITTLE THEATRE" FOR LONDON.

Once more there is talk of a Little Theatre for London—or, if not quite that, of a theatre showing little pieces in London, which, perhaps, is to be preferred. Mr. Albert Chevalier is credited with the idea of taking a playhouse and giving us half-a-dozen playlets in each evening bill. We are informed that Mr. Chevalier will not devote his entertainments to pieces of the Grand Guignol type—"five shivers per hour," as someone has called them—but will try and make his programmes for the most part light and amusing. This is well. Mr. Chevalier is too good a showman to feed his patrons entirely on sweets; but in London there is the same prejudice among playgoers generally against a dish composed exclusively of horrors as there is against paying a fancy price for the same. These two facts make a *théâtre-a-côté* on Parisian lines well-nigh impossible to organise in England, and the circumstance is not one to lament over very much. The theatre in London should be run on English lines, imitating Paris neither in its form nor its matter.

SIX PLAYS PER NIGHT

Years ago most of our London theatres presented more than one play every evening; but, as prices have risen, the amount and variety of entertainment provided have both declined. No doubt there has been some reason for this in the altered social customs of the West End during the past decade or two; and at houses which cater mainly for the stalls and circles, and stage a three-act or four-act play, there may be excuse for deferring the commencement of the programme until 8.30 or 8.45. Even here, however, I believe it would pay to include in the bill always a first-rate one-act play, interpreted by good actors and actresses, in the interests of the early comers who may or may not be always of the humbler classes of playgoers. I have long held faith in the possibilities of a well-selected triple bill, or a bill containing more than three really smart items, the earlier and later pieces being very short, so that one could at a pinch go late or come away early without missing all the best of the show. The indirect benefits to the British drama of encouraging the same sort of man that writes our short stories to try his hand at writing short plays, would, I believe, prove to be considerable; the bill of little plays as a competitor with the music-hall I regard as a very hopeful proposition. It has not been tried fairly in London during the past twenty years.

MR. MANNERS AND ANOTHER.

Among the letters received by me in connection with the offer of Mr. Charles Manners to aspiring musical readers of this journal is one from Birmingham, which seems to be worth quoting. It says:—

> I have read Mr. Charles Manners' letter on "How to get on the Operatic Stage" and become a principal. As one who knows, I beg to differ. First of all, to advise one to join chorus in opera is about the worst thing that can happen to anyone who possesses anything like a voice—in fact, it is ruinous to one's career. Secondly, I ask Mr. Manners to prove to me if such artistes as Patti, Melba, Albani, Tettrazini, Caruso, Lassalle, Plançon, and dozens more have sung in opera chorus before they became of such note. Can Mr. Manners show us how many "principals" he has produced of any note that have been singing in his chorus at the magnificent sum of 30s.? Now, ladies and gentlemen, if you possess anything like a voice, and wish to make a name for yourselves, keep away from chorus—it has been the ruin of many voices, and any professor of fame will tell you likewise.

No doubt Mr. Manners will have something to say on this.

THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

At the time of writing I have received no replies to the questions submitted last week by a reader apropos the Guildhall School of Music. However, I have had sent me a last year's prospectus, with the lines marked, "Established by the Corporation of London in 1880 and under the management and control of the Music Committee; Chairman, Samuel Alderton, Esq." This seems explicit enough. I take it that my correspondent believes that some part of the profit of the G.S.M. goes to private individuals. Whether this is so, or not, I am in no position to say. Perhaps Mr. H. Saxe Wyndham, the secretary, can clear up this point? P.

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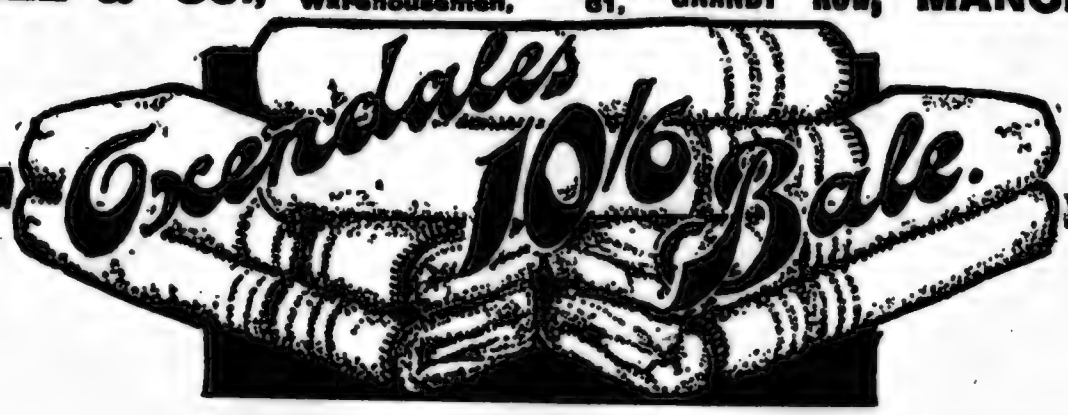

JIM CROW AND THE "TEMPERANCE CHRONICLE."

Jim Crow, like Saul, is at last among the prophets. We saw him peeping out of a coffee-tavern the other day, and wondered why he looked so radiant. Surely it could not be that the mere effect of abstinence from alcohol could transform a naturally saturnine person into such an apotheosis of light and joy. However, the explanation was not long delayed. He produced a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket, and we asked him if that was where he carried his ham-sandwiches.

"Don't you see what it is? Don't you see that it is the *Temperance Chronicle?*" he roared as he slapped his thigh.

"Well, what of that?" we asked in our best Guildhall manner.

"Wait till I read it to you."

"We did not ask you that. No, no, we must really go. We really have a very pressing engagement."

"But this is far more pressing than any conceivable engagement. It is the finest thing that has ever been written about me, and that is saying a good deal, I can tell you. Look at the heading: 'JOHN BULL on Total Abstinence.' And this is how it begins: If we had been searching the Press for a Temperance article, it would not have occurred to us to try the pages of JOHN BULL. Which shows what a mistake it is to indulge in preconceived ideas. For in the issue of Saturday last, over the signature of Jim Crow, there appears in the well-known weekly one of the best pleas for total abstinence that we have encountered.' And I think you will allow that they must have encountered a good many pleas in the course of their existence. Yet mine was one of the very best, perhaps the best of all. So you see that at last I have been recognised in my true colours. Now that he *Temperance Chronicle* has acclaimed me as the leading exponent of tariff reform—I mean of total abstinence——"

"Come, come, you must not lead your witness in this way."

"I am not leading him at all. He speaks for himself. As I was saying, when you interrupted me so impatiently, now that my public action has been endorsed in such a way and in such a quarter, no dog will ever bark at my heels again. See how he goes on: 'The writer, who is forcible'—you see how even the *Temperance Chronicle* admires the vigour and beauty of my style—'forcible to the verge of coarseness'—that is not quite so nice, but after all he only said to the verge, not over the border, mark you—'gives his real or imaginary reasons'—why this foolish qualification? Though after all he does admit the alternative of their being real—'reasons for becoming an abstainer.' Then further on he says that in the course of my article I 'observe with much point' that it is foolish for people to stand each other drinks. Now listen to this: 'In all seriousness we believe Jim Crow's article in a paper of the type and with the large circulation of JOHN BULL, and giving such excellent, common-sense reasons for total abstinence, is LIKELY TO DO MUCH GOOD.' Now, ought this not to be written in letters of gold all over the office?"

"Certainly not. Why should we advertise the *Temperance Chronicle?*"

"Well, at any rate I have pulled somebody's leg."

"But if we advertised everybody whose legs you have pulled, we should have no room for anything else in the paper."

"What of that?"

"TADDY'S"
GRAPNEL
MIXTURE
A BLEND OF CHOICE TOBACCOS.
Price 6d. per 1 oz. packet.
1/- per 2 oz. tin. 2/- per 4 oz. tin.

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IS EASY WHEN YOU USE THE
"Erasmic"
SHAVING STICK
Does not Dry on the Face.

WHY BUY FOREIGN SHAVING SOAPS WHEN "ERASMIC" IS
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is not necessarily a new one. It is far less expensive to have your old coat cleaned and renovated, and the result is almost as satisfactory. It only takes a few days, and we can guarantee you a satisfactory result at moderate charges, ranging from 3s. 6d. Apply to one of our Agents or Branches throughout the country (the address of the nearest depôt sent on application), or send direct to us and we will pay return carriage. If in London ring up 1265 East, and our van will call the same day
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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Some Recent Pretty Weddings.

One of the sweetest weddings imaginable was a Scottish one—that of Miss Elsie Shaw, daughter of the Right Hon. Thomas Shaw, Lord Advocate. Her Princess gown of snowy Duchesse satin was draped with Carrickmacross lace, finished by pearl tassels. The regal Court train slung from both shoulders was also draped with this lovely lace. On her head was a chaplet of shamrock, white heather and orange blossoms, from which fell voluminous folds of embroidered tulle. In addition to all this gorgeousness, many ornaments would obviously have been rather much; so the young bride wore nothing further than a miniature of her mother, set in pearls. The bridesmaids likewise were dressed in white, their gauze gowns of Empire make being trimmed with silver fringe. One very uncommon feature was that they, too, wore wreaths and veils. The train-bearers were a wee laddie in a Highland costume of the Shaw tartan, and an equally wee girl in white gauze, embroidered with shamrocks and white heather. With so much "shamrock" about the toilettes, it seemed only the right thing to watch the happy pair depart to Ireland for the honeymoon.

A very pretty bride was Miss Lily Henniker Heaton, daughter of the M.P. for Canterbury. Her Empire gown was of white satin meteor, the corsage elaborately worked in silver and silk. Her wreath was out of the common in style. It was a high Russian coronet of orange blossom—a very dignified and important-looking hair ornament.

The daughter of the late Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave a *chic* touch to her white satin wedding gown, by introducing touches of ermine on the shoulders. Silver is being much used in smart bridal toilettes just now. Imagine the magnificence of a train of shimmering silver tissue draped with real lace, while true-lover's knots in silver, or even in gold, are one of Fashion's favourite fancies.

The Japs and Their Kimonos.

A kimono is one of the most delightful types of morning wrapper, either for winter or summer wear, and ornamental pieces of material bought at the sales can easily be thus utilised. Nothing can possibly be more simple to manufacture—it is just straight up and down. There is no effort at shaping to the figure, even the armholes are not hollowed out in the least. The little Japs themselves are very economical in the wear of their garments, and this general shapelessness is not without its object. When their gowns get worn they just join them up the front—slit them up the back—and there they are with a comparatively new kimono. This little economical dodge is similar to that of thrifty English housewives, who—when the sheets get worn in the centre—cut them in halves and seam the two fairly strong outside edges together. In a real Japanese kimono the stitches will always be found rather big and lightly put in. This is because when a little Jap wants his frock washed, his industrious wife unpicks it entirely, so that it may be washed in straight bands, and as they are a very cleanly little people this ceremony is pretty frequent. The hanging pouch-like sleeves are, of course, useful as well as picturesque. In them Madame Chrysanthemum carries her fan, her handkerchief, her scent sachet. Sometimes these capacious sleeves are turned to tragic use. If a Japanese woman wishes to commit suicide, she packs the sleeves of her pretty kimono full of heavy stones, and throws herself into the water.

By Appointment.

CEREBOS SALT

GUARANTEED

Pure, Wholesome and Beneficial.

What is Your Number?

See page iii of cover.

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It's very unusual for a Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturer to supply his manufactures direct from the factory to the customer, but when you have examined the extraordinary value of our "Enterprise" Parcel, you will be convinced that it has moves in the right direction. The Factory Price is so low and our monthly subscription terms so very reasonable, that you can order this complete New Outfit of Genuine Sheffield Table Cutlery NOW and never feel the effort.

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51 Pieces for 25/-

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BULL'S EYES.

SOME UNFOUNDED AND CONFOUNDED RUMOURS:—
That the accent is on the second syllable in *The Academy*.
That it will be a General *Ejection* when it does come.
That Miss Violet Charlesworth is not herself.
That Rutland Barrington doesn't like encores.
That the Unionist Free Fooders now want protection.
That they spell it "haughtyculture" at the War Office.
That the Rev. R. J. Campbell is suffering from counter-irritation.
That Imre Kiralfy's White City profits ever were "secret."
That the favourite song in Birmingham is "We're A-waitin' for ye, Joey."
That Germany has any reason to be Rathy.

A New York man has left a fortune of £50,000, made by selling sandwiches. There seems to have been money in them.

In many cases the Suffragette miss with a mission would be satisfied with a man with a mansion.

An Anagram: Messina—In a mess.

The champion ball-room dancer has arrived in London. To challenge the whirled!

A "German Invasion" is to be produced at Wyndham's Theatre. We knew it was "on the boards."

Hearty congratulations to Abdul Hamid on dinner to Parliamentary deputies. All of them agreed that the food was excellent and the Port Sublime.

"Treat your wife as your partner," said the North London magistrate recently. A sleeping partner.

A REFLECTION!
"What a life I lead! to be sure! What a warm time I have of it! Someone is for ever 'blowing me up,' and when I flare up in response, as soon as I 'cool' down again someone else beats me till my poor body falls to pieces." If we think this matter out carefully, a piece of coal is quite justified in thus grumbling.

At the Old Bailey a man has been sentenced to six months' hard labour for bribery. He tried to get round a clerk by "squaring" him.

Judge Willis, who recently stated that he had never travelled on a tube railway, now confesses that he has not yet used a telephone. No wonder he is an "ornament" of the Bench.

"The world is not favourable to an easy life," says Bruce Wallace. Yet only those the world favours can take life easy.

The Crystal Palace directors have decided to discontinue the London County Cricket Club. They might have given it another year's Grace.

"Courtesy is an asset," says a contemporary. But more often it is a lie-ability.

"Bogeys in the Balkans," reads a heading. A genuine "scare" line.

The Suffragettes' latest move is the formation of a "no hat" brigade This is by far the best idea they have struck yet. Every woman should be granted the vote—in exchange for her hat. Ballot-box or bonnet-box—which shall it be?

Mr. Edgar Jepson says:—"The bowler hat follows the British flag a good deal more surely than trade does." But is it not one of the evidences of our mercantile supremacy?

The man who knows his own mind is not necessarily possessed of great intelligence.

"Exercise is absolutely necessary for an artist," says W. P. Frith. And most of them get it, "canvassing" the dealers.

The H. L. Smiles sentenced to three years' for converting trust-money to his own use, appears to be an admirer of the author of "Self-Help."

REVISED DEFINITIONS:—
Football: The pursuit of blown leather by blown humanity.
Nation: There are many, but only one Carrie.
Yellow Press: Sheets on which editors often lie.
Anæmia: A new name for kleptomania.
Abode of Love: A place where there is Glory without honour.
University Education: A little racing and less Greek.
The Licensing Bill: A measure for promoting twelve-mile Marathon races on Sunday mornings.
M.P.—A man who commences business as a legislator with no apprenticeship.
House of Commons: A gas house, with little illumination, although the retorts are numerous.
Variety Theatres: Places where there is no variety.

Comfortable Chins.

After shaving, nothing will give such a cool, comfortable, velvety feeling to the chin as ICILMA FLUOR CREAM. Used overnight, it softens the skin, makes shaving easy, and prevents roughness, redness and soreness.

Of all Chemists, 1s. Send 2d. for sample to ICILMA CO., LTD. (Dept. 6), 14a Rosebery Avenue, LONDON, E.C.

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(The quality of these goods is identical with those sold by West End Houses at £4-4-0). It will pay you to investigate this. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Returned.
Ask for our "J. B." range of Patterns.

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SEND A POSTCARD FOR FREE PATTERNS, latest fashion plates, unique lists of testimonials, and instructions for accurate self-measurement. All sent free and carriage paid. Those who are able to call should visit our showrooms.

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(Within five minutes of Moorgate Street, Metropolitan, and Tube Railways, and Liverpool Street Railways.)
Please mention this paper.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to—such as whether it related to a legal, financial, insurance, publishing, or general enquiry.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—*Owing to the great increase in the number of* ENQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag." The Editor will, however, in special cases, endeavour to reply by post to those correspondents who forward a stamped addressed envelope. When answers already standing in type have been published,* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will appear. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc., which will be duly acknowledged in these columns.*

A. B. (London).—It is rather difficult to advise you in these columns as you have consulted us in confidence. But if you will make an appointment some days in advance, we will ask someone to keep it and give you the best advice in our power. Your case has certainly interested us.

W. R. M. (Highbury) says there would be plenty of work to be had in the building trade if the surveyors enforced the necessary repairs under building leases.

"CABMAN" draws our attention to a statement in the *Daily Mirror* that the new regulation instituting three calls for a four-wheeler has caused confusion to policemen, who were accustomed to be summoned by that signal. But taxi-cabs were summoned in that way for at least twelve months.

C. B. (London Road) says he paid 5s. each to the General Employment Bureau (Strand) and to Collins and Collins (Essex Street, Strand) without result or return of money. We agree with Carlyle.

"LAND-SURVEYOR-TO-BE" (Thame) wants to know what are the most useful and practical books on land-surveying, rick, hay, and straw-measuring, etc. Will some expert oblige?

J. H. C. (Sutton) says that "any person confined as a lunatic can demand that his case shall be tried by a jury." But we are not sure that the demands of alleged lunatics always receive due attention.

"CONSTANT READER" (Gracechurch Street) was attracted by a notice in the shop window of 112, High Holborn, occupied by the Adder Cash Register Syndicate, Ltd., stating that, as an advertisement, they intended selling 2,500 adding machines at 50s. each, and were going to raise the price to £5 on September 30th. He obtained a definite assurance that the price would be raised on that date, and bought a machine with an understanding that he should have an agency and 33 per cent. commission. On October 23rd he passed the shop again, and found that the machines were being sold at two guineas each. We advise him to insist upon the return of his money.

"Nitro" (Sutton-in-Ashfield).—We do not recommend Lord and Co. (Great Jackson Street, Manchester). We will consider the advisability of issuing a black list.

T. W. L. (Dorking) wants to know if there is in London a society for natives of the counties of Durham and Northumberland.

"TIMID AT TIMES" (Liverpool) defends anonymous correspondents on the ground that "a writer may have many reasons for holding back his name, the chief one in many cases being his natural reserve." But if we noticed anonymous letters, we should run many risks of having our legs pulled. Bashful correspondents can follow the example of "Timid at Times," and send their names and addresses for our private eye.

G. D. V. (Clapham Road).—We are sorry we do not understand the Devonshire dialect as transliterated by you. We shall have to take you over the border and teach you Cornish.

I. A. H. (Hove).—That is Hardy and Co.'s usual trick.

H. O. C. (Stirling) thanks us for "many a good inward laugh," and says "there are laughs and laughs. I enjoy those most that, though silent, tingle even one's toes and fingers till one is forced to hug oneself for sheer joy." This sounds rather saucy. He also says that "James is a *dear* friend. The dunghills he crows on are ones that I most relish. I often smoke a bit of them in my pipe." We do not know whether King Solomon's wives wrote any of his Proverbs, but perhaps they suggested some of them unconsciously.

H. C. S. (Muswell Hill), being blind, cannot distinguish between first, second and third class carriages, and considers it "a mean extortion when an inspector demands second or first-class rates for travelling with a third-class ticket." As our friend is probably escorted to the train, his companion might see that he gets into the right carriage. Otherwise he had better ask an official. We are glad to hear that in Dundee and Oldham blind people are allowed free transit on the tramways.

L. D. L. (Willesden) calls our attention to an advertisement of a charming cottage to be let, furnished, on the Chiltern Hills, which announcement he says has to his own knowledge appeared daily for the last 3½ years in one of the papers, presumably at the cost of 3s. 6d. per insertion. L. D. L. is curious for an explanation. Possibly, there may be more than one charming cottage to be let in the district.

M. W. (Swansea).—We do not know that there is much to choose between Canada and Australia. If you are young and have a trade, and are not afraid of work, and are steady and sober, you might get along all right in either country, but for a man with these qualifications England is as good a place as any we know.

C. A. K. (Dalmanutha, Transvaal) sends us a copy of the *Rand Daily Mail* reproducing the prehistoric story about the little girl who shared her porridge with a puff-adder and smacked it over the head with her spoon when it was greedy. This was one of the anecdotes with which Noah beguiled the tedium of his sojourn in the Ark.

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F. H. E. (Birmingham) has taken the trouble to cut out a very old story from some paper, with the inquiry: "Does this interest you?" The answer is most emphatically in the negative, and we have the honour to invite our correspondent to retire to a desert island and devote himself to a diet of coke.

G. C. thinks Germans are "asses or donkeys, or some other stupid animal." At the same time he says there would not be so many unemployed in England if there were less Germans in our midst. He cannot have it both ways.

R. P. (Bristol).—The Sabbath was made for man.

E. P. P. (Stoke Newington) thinks that Messrs. Beecham should have a biscuit for stating in one of their advertisements that "Fortune does not long FROWN on entirely healthy men and women," but Beechams are such advertising experts that we hesitate to criticise them.

"WELLWISHER" (Glasgow) wants a biscuit for the *Glasgow News* for a paragraph, anent the discovery of a body, to the effect that "he went amissing about a month ago." It sounds strange English, but, for aught we know, it may be excellent Scotch.

H. M. (London, S.W.) informs E. C. E. (Croydon) that a French lecture is delivered at the L.C.C. Evening School, Kennington Road, S.E., every Monday evening from 7.15 to 9.45, and that there is a French Protestant Church in Soho Square.

J. C. W. R. (West Horsley) says that an omnibus conductor who overlooked one penny fare had to forfeit two days' work, and travel several days at his own expense to report himself. If this is true, it is very unfair.

"FAIRPLAY" (Walworth) calls our attention to the grievances of the motor 'bus drivers in the employment of the London General Omnibus Co., and, if what he says is correct, the matter is one requiring the immediate attention of the directors.

C. E. W. (Catford) tells us that over a year ago he made an application to the Home Office for a nomination to compete for the post of factory inspector, and that he has just received a reply, saying that the Home Secretary "thinks it better to let him know at once" that he sees no prospect of being able to accede to the request!

WILL W. B. (Birmingham), to whom we inserted a reply a short time ago, communicate with T. W., 55, Cholmley Street, Hull?

G. DE G. G. (London, S.W.) wants to know "the origin of the expression 'John Bull' in reference to England." The popular explanation is that it is derived from the name of the composer (John Bull, Mus.D.) of "God Save the King," said to have been written in 1606. Some, however, ascribe the National Anthem to Henry Carey (author of "Sally in Our Alley"), who died in 1743, and derive the name of the typical Englishman from Dr. Arbuthnot's satire, "John Bull," published in 1712.

A LEICESTER READER tells us that she is purchasing from A. Parker and Sons, 70, Rutland St., Leicester, a 7d. packet of tea per week, upon the faith of some handbills stating that the firm, "to advertise their fine blend, have decided to present to every customer in Leicester and district the sum of £2 10s. for taking one packet weekly. All orders are entered in our ledger in strict rotation as they are received, and we undertake to call at least upon one or more customers to receive one of the above sums of money each week. Every customer receives the cash grant strictly in their turn, but not in any specified time." Our correspondent says that a neighbour has been taking the tea for six months, but has doubts as to the *bona-fides* of the concern, as she thinks it identical with a Manchester firm which traded in the name of Davis, and cannot understand the change of title. We observe that in several places in the circulars the 7d. packet is stated to be "full weight without paper," but the actual weight is not given. Our correspondent should stick to Lipton's.

"Gulled" (Tonbridge), E. J. B. (Belfast), W. B. (Glasgow), "Nemo" (Dowlais), J. M. (Leicester), "Sherrard" (Forest Gate), P. F. (Kennington Park), W. U. T. (Fulham), W. F. (York), A. B. R. (Shepherd's Bush Road), S. R. D. (Finsbury Park), R. S. K. (Brook Road), R. P. (St. Pancras), L. P. D. (Orchard Street), A. S. J. (Chiswick), G. M. (Derby), O. V. M. (Clapham Park), N. S. A. (Sheffield), W. G. G. (Cardiff), F. C. K. (Putney), C. J. R. (Hornsey), N. B. R. B. (Leeds), H. C. B. (St. John's), F. J. (Liverpool), R. C. (Vauxhall), F. J. S. D. (Catford), G McN. (Upper Norwood), A. L. (Rotherham), Mrs. R. H. (Ilford), "Phonie" (Bedford), A. S. L. (Birmingham), R. A. (Burscough), H. W. M. (Ware), C. M. M. (Kensington), "A Constant Reader" (Barnes), R. C. (Hay Mills), A. R. W. (Grosvenor Square), E. G. H., (North Kensington), H. J. B. (Southsea), H. J. J. (Coventry), A. H. (Aldwych), J. S. (Plaistow), W. S. S (Redhill), G. S. G. (Croydon), H. G. (Exeter), F. T. (Queen's Park), J. W. (Newport), L. N. E. Folkestone), H. M. (Sutton), J. S. (Stockton-on-Tees), J. A. B. (Clapham Junction), Miss L. A. (Finchley Road), S. C. S. (Oxford), D. T. (Swansea), W. H. W. (Exeter), R. W. F. (Plumstead), G. L. (Forest Gate), A. E. J. (Mitcham), R. W. E. (Tollington Park), J. H. M. (Balham), C. W. (Ashton-under-Lyne), M. J. (Leith), J. J. H. (Colchester), S. H. (Leeds), R. H. (Manor Park), J. S. L. (Croydon), A. S. M. (South Norwood), E. J. B. (Canterbury), J. H. (Burnley), A. W. W. (Leicester), A. G. T. (New Cross), W. R. E. (Gloucester), J. S. S. (Redditch), "One of the Cheering Crowd" (Palmer's Green), W. F. W. (Islington), J. E. (Dublin), W. A. H. (New Southgate), E. M. (New Cross), C. E. D. (Clapham), J. M. McL. (Kennington Park), and A. S. (Stamford Hill). Many thanks.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

CYCLISTS—

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How much power Cyclists lose through the extra friction caused by dirty and badly lubricated Chains and Driving Bearings? Those who ride Golden Sunbeams are free from this extra friction.

And how much time Cyclists waste though having to clean the Chains and Driving Bearings of their Bicycles? Those who ride the Golden Sunbeams are free from this drudgery, for the Little Oil Bath Gear Case both keeps clean and lubricates these parts.

And how much wear of the Driving Bearings and stretch of the Chain does the Little Oil Bath save? That is why one Sunbeam outlasts half a dozen cheap Cycles.

All Cyclists in purchasing a new mount should insist on having the Golden Sunbeam, and let the Little Oil Bath do the work.

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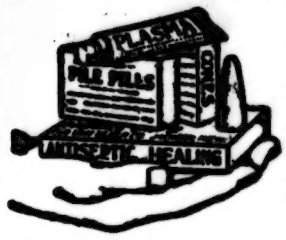

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lorimer.
("Larry Lynx" of "The People," and "Magpie" of "The Globe.")

Prophetic.

Newbury's concluding card to-day (Thursday) is quite an alluring one, for it is obvious that THE DRUDGE can, if he will, win the Moderate Hurdle Handicap. He was a long way second best to Balavil at Windsor, and yet meets horses like Balister that he would then have beaten, on better terms. It may be that Mr. Alfred Simons' luck at Newbury will bring about this success, although The Drudge is certainly not a reliable animal either to follow or risk much upon.

After his sequence of seconds in Maiden Plates, it is quite the due of

W. M.

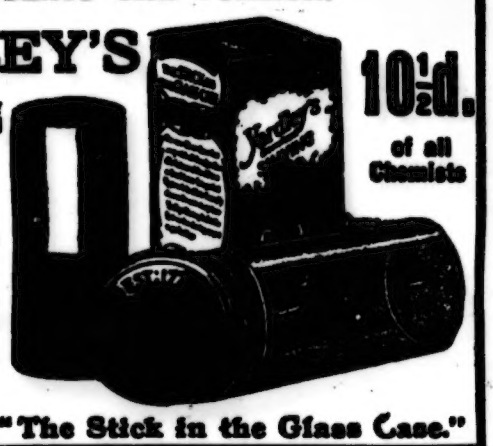
to pick up the substantial Berkshire Maiden Plate, in which Bruges is hardly likely to run, having a much easier and richer engagement the following afternoon at Kempton, so there is nothing better than Mr. Hodgson's best to be beaten by his Epsom neighbour. As Judas runs in lieu of Carsey, his chance in the Winchester Steeplechase is palpable, and yet he is better in at Sandown next week. I do not think he is quite capable of beating CAUBEEN at 10 lbs.—that is, judged by the little horse's public form against Cackler at the last meeting here.

At Kempton,

SAVERNAKE

having missed Newbury purposely, should, on his Hurst Park running—since enhanced by Master Tredennis—take Friday's Hurdle Handicap, and then we look like having paper certainties, such as BRUGES in the Middlesex Plate, BARON CRAFTON for the Selling Hurdle, and B.M. in the Selling Steeplechase. So, too, will WARDSTOWN—who has been amiss—find it an easier task to carry 10 st. in the 2½ miles Littleton Steeplechase rather than to chase Bornalira and Lustleigh for 2 miles at Lingfield.

On Saturday, as it is not a question of whether he can go, SHERWOOD RISE may just as readily gallop under a middleweight as a minimum, and, therefore, take the Hanworth Park Handicap.

JUST INVENTED!
A BRITISH SHAVING SOAP THAT BEATS THE FOREIGN.
YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP
is better—smoother—and more soothing than any you have ever used.

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YARDLEY & Co., Ltd., STRATFORD, E. "The Stick in the Glass Case."

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KEMPTON PARK,
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NEXT,
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Frequent Specials leave Waterloo from 11.18 a.m. to 12.52. Clapham Junction at 11.27 and 12.36, and other South Western Stations.

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Calvert's Tooth Powder
Price 6d., 1/-, 1/6 & 2/-. If you prefer to sprinkle the Powder on to the tooth brush, ask for our new package—a glass jar with sprinkler top, 1/- nett. For trial sample send a penny stamp to F. C. Calvert & Co. (JB Dept.), Manchester

THE OLD ORIGINAL and WORLD-FAMOUS LUNG TONIC is OWBRIDGE'S, FOR COUGHS & COLDS.
The most up-to-date, best known and most successful Remedy in the World for THROAT and CHEST TROUBLES arising from Damp or Chill.
Owbridge's Lung Tonic.
Ask for "OWBRIDGE," and take no substitute.
This is the Best, Cheapest, and Safest way to recovery.
Invaluable to SPEAKERS, SINGERS, and all who suffer from THROAT WEAKNESS.
Established 1874.
CAUTION.—Do not waste money on so-called lung tonics, which appear to be cheap, but of which you have to take double doses, with disappointing results.
Prepared by W. T. OWBRIDGE, Ltd., Hull.
Sold everywhere in bottles, at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d. & 11s.
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WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See page iii of cover.

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The Famous Wine Tonic.

TO COUNTERACT CHILLS AND INFLUENZA.

PROTECTS THE HEALTH. There is unfortunately, a tendency to deterioration in all large cities. Men, and women too, rush about, eat quickly and often unsuitably, worry all day in a vitiated and dust-laden atmosphere, come home over-tired, and spend half the night awake and disturbed. No wonder they get "run down." The remedy for a "run down" condition is "Wincarnis," the famous meat and malt wine tonic. "Wincarnis," protects one's health by raising the powers of resistance to disease. It makes the blood warm and rich in red corpuscles, gives a vigorous circulation.

FREE TRIAL. Send three penny stamps (to pay cost of carriage) to Coleman and Co., Ltd., Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you'll obtain a sample bottle, free of charge. Mention this paper.

AFTER FREE TRIAL you can buy "Wincarnis" at any wine merchant's, and Chemist's or Grocer's who are licensed to sell wines. You can buy "Wincarnis" with Quinine of Chemists.

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BRAND NEW and READY for INSTANT USE on the ROAD.

Fitted with 4-cylinder Engines of 12 h.p. and conform in every respect to Scotland Yard Regulations, and are complete with Taximeters, Fire Extinguishers, Stepney spare wheels, all accessories and tools.

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OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 50 HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for the issues of December 5th and 12th:—

F. J. REYNOLDS, 5, Victoria Avenue, Slaema, Malta. No. 207582. (December 5th, 1908.)

G. J. SUTTON, 6, Swinton Street, King's Cross, W.C. No. 131572. (December 12th, 1908.)

W. A. PIKE, 18, Knavesmire Crescent, York. No. 34923. (December 12th, 1908.)

WILLIAM JOHNS, 25, Upper Cox Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. No. 215649. (December 12th, 1908.)

A. BARKER, 37, Gibson Street, Hull. No. 171039. (December 12th, 1908).

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 26:—

11348; 17860; 22329; 24974; 24991; 29041; 47284; 53236; 55743; 59346; 60403; 65593; 71497; 77277; 82201; 85308; 93733; 94782; 99945; 101300; 107631; 112452; 115633; 123093; 123675; 125370; 143971; 148742; 150477; 153689; 159008; 163482; 168483; 176980; 188396; 188881; 193468; 200014; 209748; 214886; 223785; 230840; 239781; 247423; 256947; 267910; 273485; 279867; 280014; 299674.

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

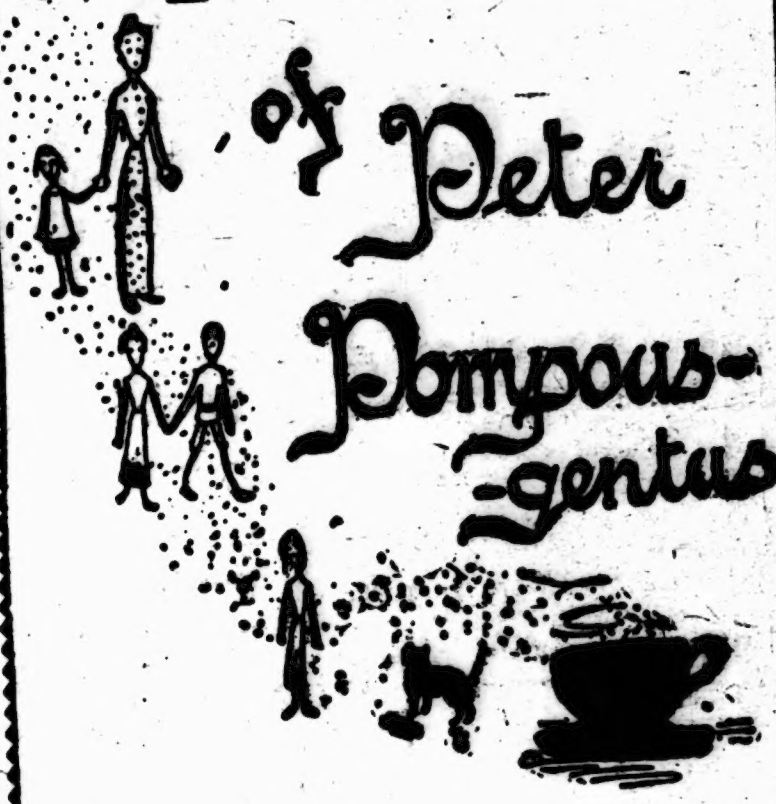
THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED FEBRUARY 27TH (PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 25TH)

Special Notice.

After the end of the present month, this scheme will be entirely re-organised. Numbers will be drawn weekly in respect of the previous weekly issue, and, instead of having to undertake canvassing, the holders of the drawn numbers will be asked to assist us in another, and novel, manner involving no entrenchment upon their spare time or present occupation.

The Ballad of Peter Pompous-gentus

Now Peter Pompousgentus was a most important man,
His like had never yet been known e'er since the world began.



But Peter Pompous' family all thought it different quite,
For he bullied and he grumbled from morning until night.

Peter's wife 'nigh mad was sent, and cried in grief at last,
She "wished that she could tie his tongue, and tie it strong and fast!"

He grumbled at the butter, he grumbled at the tea,
And thought a more afflicted man — well, never could there be.

Now things were in a dreadful state, when Peter's anxious wife,
Being weary of the trials and struggles of her stormy life,

To the forest was repairing, there to "lay her down and die."
(She had some of her own pastry to end her troubles by).

But she passed a happy couple, who discussed their future lot,
And she listened to them speaking of the joy that they had got.

The bride-elect said to her beau, with sundry shy, coy jerks:
"Yes, darling, when we're married we will buy our tea from Peaks!"

O, happy thought! Peter's poor wife to Peaks' straightway went she,
And purchased there some coffee, some butter, and some tea.

And Peter, when he tasted, a smile spread o'er his face.
"My dear! Well, this is lovely!" he said, with stately grace.

And now the Pompous family, their troubles left behind,
A happier or more pleasant one, I don't believe you'll find.

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